

Crash experts find evidence of explosion

US seeks formal FBI role in Lockerbie inquiry

● Experts searching the Lockerbie disaster wreckage have found damage probably caused by luggage exploding

● The first bodies were released to relatives last night and are being flown to the United States for burial

● The American State Department is expected to make a formal request for FBI agents to be involved in the inquiry

● Four men are due to appear in court today in Dumfries in connection with alleged looting of the crashed aircraft

By Harvey Elliott, Tony Dawe, Michael Evans and Kerry Gill

The hardest evidence so far that the Pan Am crash over Lockerbie was caused by a bomb was discovered yesterday by investigators searching the wreckage from Britain's worst air disaster.

Parts of the plastic lining from one of the cargo bays of the Boeing 747 were found with heat damage which was caused most probably by luggage exploding in the hold.

The evidence was sent immediately to the top research centre which yesterday began investigating a suitcase shattered in the disaster.

More suitcases which had been ripped by metal fragments were also recovered yesterday. Some of the bodies

were found to contain slivers of metal.

Experts believe that the damage and injuries are incompatible with a catastrophic structural failure of the jet, the other possible cause of the disaster.

British and American officials insisted, however, that the cause of the crash which killed 270 people, was a bomb.

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Crew delivers Christmas baby girl at 39,000ft



Proud parents: Mrs Maureen Capaldi and her husband, Franco, with baby Catherine Faye in Limerick maternity hospital.

Co-pilot acts as mid-air midwife

By Patrick O'Hanlon

A jumbo jet acquired an extra passenger at 39,000ft over the Atlantic on Boxing Day after a torchlit delivery by the co-pilot of a premature baby girl.

The British Airways Boeing 747 from Barbados to Gatwick was diverted to Shannon airport, where a waiting ambulance whisked baby Catherine Faye - two months early and weighing 3lb 11oz - and her mother, Mrs Maureen Capaldi, who lives in London, to St Munchin's maternity hospital, Limerick, where mother and baby were doing fine yesterday.

Mrs Capaldi, who was 31 weeks pregnant - one week within the recommended limit for air travellers - went into labour three hours after take-off.

"It was getting a bit panicky and I went to give reassurance, convinced that the birth was not going to take place," Mr Nick Eades, the co-pilot, said. "But by the time I got there it was all happening."

"The head was already out. When the contractions stopped, the baby was there. It was really a do-it-yourself birth."

Mr Eades attended the birth of his own son 10 weeks ago, at which he cut the umbilical cord. "So I had seen it all before," he said.

It was half-an-hour before the baby breathed unaided. Mr Eades added: "We thought the little mite wasn't going to live. A stewardess got a suction line from the medical kit while I tried artificial respiration. We decided to leave well alone and not cut the umbilical cord. I then rushed back to the flight deck to land the plane. Mrs Capaldi was very calm throughout. But her husband was too shocked to do anything except hold his wife's hand."



Mr Nick Eades, the co-pilot who acted as midwife.

Labour leaders planning hard arms bargaining in Moscow

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Labour leaders are expected to rule out a straight missile-for-missile deal with the Soviet Union in any future negotiations for the removal of the British independent deterrent.

With a high-level Labour team due to fly to Moscow next month for talks as part of the party's crucial defence policy review, it has emerged that Labour would be looking for a far more substantial response than has been suggested by previous contacts between the Labour leadership and the Kremlin.

Members of the defence policy review group are emphasizing, in advance of the Moscow trip, that there is no intention of Labour, as an opposition party, negotiating a formal deal with the Soviet Union and tying the hands of a future Labour government.

In talks with high-ranking members of the Soviet Communist Party and the Soviet government it will, however, explore the options for a "something for something" deal involving dismantling the British deterrent as part of multilateral arms control negotiations or a bilateral agreement between Britain and the Soviet Union.

Although no decisions have been taken, senior members of the defence group appear to be leaning, in any negotiated settlement, towards the multilateral option, possibly involving the removal of Trident as part of the Start 2 strategic arms limitations talks. The danger of a straight bilateral deal is that it would be seen as giving the Soviet Union a veto over Britain's defence policy, Labour sources say.

The Labour team going to Moscow will be headed by Mr Martin O'Neill, shadow defence secretary, with Mr Gerald Kaufman, shadow Foreign Secretary, its other members.

Mr Ron Todd, transport union general secretary, and Mr Tony Clarke, the national executive committee's chief representative on the group.

Mr Todd's presence on the trip is a reminder of the difficulties Labour faces in abandoning an outright unilateralist policy.

He cast his union's 1.25 million votes against the leadership at the party conference in October, but Labour leaders are reasonably confident of getting a non-unilateralist policy through the conference next year.

In any negotiated deal - assuming that the policy review does not reassert the party's unilateralist stance - Labour leaders believe that Britain would be able to strike a hard bargain with Moscow.

Removing Britain's deterrent would mean far more than the simple withdrawal of nuclear firepower equivalent to 500 warheads, it is being pointed out. The Soviet Union would effectively gain the removal of the second most important decision-making centre in the West in any potential nuclear conflict and would be expected to respond accordingly.

In Moscow Labour's team will explore the possibility of some kind of reciprocal package, involving conventional or nuclear disarmament, or both.

Mr O'Neill gave strong indications on current Labour thinking in a recent interview with the American Magazine *Defense News*. He said they were not going to Moscow "to negotiate treaties so much as to explore possibilities for future arms control discussions."

It was confirmation that Labour intends to go well beyond the sort of missiles deal reached by Mr Michael Foot and Mr Denis Healey in Moscow in 1983 which had little impact on British opinion.

Boost for Tehran-UK links

Iran releases jailed Briton

By Nicholas Beeston

Iran signalled yesterday that it is serious about improving relations with Britain when it freed a British prisoner held for two years in Tehran's Evin prison.

Mr Nicholas Nicola, aged 23, a British citizen of Greek Cypriot origin from North London, arrived at Heathrow on an Air Iran flight looking slim and fit but refusing to speak to journalists.

His unexpected release was greeted with relief by the Foreign Office after months of tortuous diplomatic negotiating as the first gesture by Tehran that it is intent on normalizing ties with London.

It could also herald the release of a second British prisoner, Mr Roger Cooper, and Iranian help in freeing the three British hostages in Lebanon, Mr Terry Waite, Mr John McCarthy and Mr Brian Keenan.

According to the *Tehran Times*, Mr Nicola was freed "for good behaviour" after serving part of his three and a half year sentence for entering the country illegally from the remote border with Pakistan, armed with two weapons and ammunition.

Britain maintains that neither he, nor Mr Cooper, who is accused of spying for Britain, have ever been charged or tried by the Iranian authorities.

Unlike Mr Cooper and the Beirut hostages, Mr Nicola's case never drew prominent political attention, because of his poor mental condition and the bizarre circumstances of his alleged crime.

Mr Cooper's brother, Paul, said: "The fact that they are choosing to release people held without trial from jail is a good sign but I don't think we should expect Roger's release immediately. In the long term it is good for Roger."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Naturally the British Government is pleased with the Iranians for releasing Nicholas Nicola. At the same time we remain concerned at the continued detention of Roger Cooper and hope that he too will be released in the future." Commenting on the

Continued on page 20, col 1

Bodies of mother and son in sunken car

By Ian Smith

The bodies of a woman and her son, aged seven, were found by police frogmen in their submerged car yesterday, 48 hours after the Christmas Day discovery of her daughter's body on a river bank nearby.

The tragedy came after the disappearance of Mrs Elaine Smith, aged 33, her son Christopher, aged three, from the family home in Churchtown, near Garstang, Lancashire, nearly a month ago, after the children's father said he intended spending Christmas with his lover.

Police now believe Mrs Smith drove the family car into Glasson Dock basin on the outskirts of Lancaster when a side door burst open, sending Elaine floating down the River Lune.

She was found on the river bank by a family walking to church and immediately nearby.

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Continued on page 20, col 1

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TODAY

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● Portfolio resumes today, offering two prizes - the Accumulator fund, standing at £80,000, or the £4,000 daily prize. Prices: page 24.

THIS WEEK

First Light

● All this week *The Times* is serializing Peter Ackroyd's latest novel, a lyrical mixture of science and comedy. The third extract appears today on page 16.

Charades

● A simple quiz to test your knowledge of the arts: four more questions appear today on page 18.

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IN PART 2

Oil price rise

North Sea oil prices are expected to rise today following the accident which has stopped production from three platforms. Page 21

Pipe on song

Martin Pipe, the National Hunt trainer, had five winners, including Bonanza Boy in the Welsh National at Chepstow, to take his total for the season to 99. Page 26

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Aids alert to Samaritan driver

Scotland Yard yesterday appealed to a motorist who gave first aid at a crash scene to an HIV positive casualty to come forward.

The Samaritan driver, aged about 50, stopped his maroon Ford Sierra car at 4am after a green VW Golf crashed into a concrete pillar on the A4 beneath the M4 at Chiswick, west London. The bespectacled driver gave help to the man who had serious leg and facial injuries. The driver, who left before emergency service arrived, may have got extensive amounts of blood on himself as he helped the crash victim.

Inspector Alan Given, of Chiswick police, said: "The chap we are looking for had stopped and given the driver first aid before we arrived. It is essential we get hold of him because he may be at risk... and for the sake of his family." He was asked to get in touch with Chiswick police or the West Middlesex Hospital, where the injured driver was taken.

Mr Given said that several of the seven police officers and two ambulance men who attended the accident shortly before 4am had been covered in blood. They received medical check-ups from a doctor before going off duty and were not thought to have been contaminated because they had no open cuts.

Jockey faces eviction

A jockey who once won the Irish Derby has been ordered to leave his home-made hut after nuns gained an eviction order against him. Mr Jimmy Mullane, aged 52, and his wife Nancy, aged 49, have lived together in the hut, made from logs and plastic sheeting, on land at Wickham, Hampshire, for four years. Nuns at The Congregation of St Francis, who are trustees of the land, won the eviction order at a hearing at Winchester High Court last week. Mr Mullane, who won the Irish Derby in 1952 on The 13 of Diamonds, has a long-running dispute with the Jockey Club over compensation for injuries which ended his riding career. He said yesterday: "I just don't know what we're going to do". The Congregation of St Francis would make no comment yesterday.

Afghans win meeting

Afghans protesting outside the Soviet Embassy in Kensington, west London yesterday on the ninth anniversary of the invasion of their country by Russian troops were invited inside to meet Soviet diplomats for talks. The embassy said that three representatives of the Afghanistan Association in Britain held "constructive and businesslike" discussions for 45 minutes with counsellor Mr Vladimir Khanjenkov and third secretary Mr Ivan Zolotov. The Russians, who are completing their withdrawal from Afghanistan by February 15, emphasized to the Afghan delegation the need for dialogue between all Afghan leaders.

Seaman accused

A Portuguese seaman appeared in court yesterday accused of two murders. Joao Da Cruz Andrade, aged 30, a cook, was remanded in custody for seven days at a special sitting of Exmouth magistrates in Devon after an incident in the docks area of the town early on Christmas Eve. Senhor Da Cruz Andrade from Benfica, Lisbon, serving on the British cargo ship Union Jupiter, is accused of murdering David Clifford, aged 29, a first mate, of Brightlingsea, Essex, and Clifford Haylett, aged 22, of Langstone Drive, Exmouth. An interpreter translated the charges and the prosecution's outline of the case.

Fourth arson attack

Arsonists set fire to a solicitor's home for the fourth time in a month early yesterday. The latest fire at the home of Mr Roland Fernandez, at Lower Road, Great Brickhill, Buckinghamshire, destroyed the roof. Arsonists also struck at a block of flats in Portsmouth on Boxing Day. Families were moved out after a fire was started in a corridor of the ninth floor of Leamington House, Somerstown. Children are believed to have started a series of fires in the old mortuary at Burlington Avenue, Slough, Berkshire, on Boxing Day.

Second man charged

A second man was charged yesterday with the murder of Victor Tamborini, aged 29, who was stabbed after being chased by a gang of youths in Fulham, south-west London, on December 21. Roger Nelson, aged 20, unemployed, of Talgarth Road, West Kensington, will appear before West London Magistrates' Court today charged with Mr Tamborini's murder. On Monday Richard Thomas, of the West Kensington Estate, was remanded by Marylebone magistrates accused of the killing.

Frogmen join the search for dead at Lockerbie

By Kerry Gill

As the hunt for missing bodies from the Lockerbie air disaster continued yesterday, police frogmen were searching small lochs, reservoirs and bogs in an area covering 100 square miles.

Pieces of wreckage lie scattered over mile after mile of hills, moorland and narrow valleys, many of them covered with thick banks of conifer forest.

The cockpit, which crashed to earth yards from Tundergarth Church, is to be split in two before being transported away.

All day RAF transporters recovered wreckage from sites including Rosebank Crescent, Lockerbie, where one house was totally destroyed and many damaged and where bodies of passengers were also recovered.

Yesterday three helicopters were in action in the painstaking search, aided by 38 search dogs and 100

Another three men have been arrested for alleged theft of parts of the Boeing 747 airliner. One man aged 21 was arrested late on Monday in Ecclefechan, near Lockerbie. In the early hours of

soldiers of the First Gordon Highlanders.

Today another 100 RAF personnel will arrive to join the operation. The number of bodies recovered still stands at 240.

The Lord Lieutenant of Dumfries, Captain John Milne House, toured the shattered Sherwood Crescent area, where 11 townspeople lost their lives when a large section of the airliner crashed, causing a huge crater next to the A74.

He visited many of the damaged homes, speaking to residents who have since returned. After his visit he said: "The residence of the survivors is quite remarkable. They are cheerful, thoughtful and very

yesterday, the two men other were arrested, one aged 20 at Dumcow and one aged 40 in Dumfries. All three, as well as a man arrested over the weekend, are to appear today at Dumfries sheriff court.

gratified to the emergency services who have supported them.

"The community in Lockerbie is very close knit. Everybody looks after everyone else and that helps to minimise the very natural grief that is felt. People I have visited are remarkably cheerful. They are thankful to be alive and very sad to have lost their neighbours."

A social worker who accompanied him said she had been helping the survivors in the street and had found them much more cheerful yesterday.

An MP yesterday denounced as "sick crocodile tears" a message of condolence sent by an extremist Palestinian group to the families of

those who perished in the Lockerbie disaster.

Mr David Wilshire, Conservative MP for Spelthorne and an aviation expert, was commenting on a statement by the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), led by Abu Nidal.

According to Reuters, the message was issued to reporters in Beirut by Atef Abu Bakr, an official FRC spokesman. It said: "In the name of our movement, we extend our condolences to the afflicted families of the victims of the American plane. We express our deepest sorrow for this tragedy."

Mr Wilshire said: "It is absolutely sick. I find these sort of crocodile tears nauseating."

A man who telephoned the American Embassy in Helsinki on December 5, warning that a bomb would be placed on a Pan Am aircraft by a woman, claimed that he belonged to Abu Nidal's organization.

● London needs a special disaster

squad in case a disaster similar to the Lockerbie air crash happened in the capital, it was claimed yesterday.

The Association of London Authorities said it had "grave doubts that the available resources are sufficient to cope with the consequences of a Lockerbie-type disaster taking place in London."

It called for an urgent meeting with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, to discuss disaster tactics in the capital.

Mrs Margaret Hodge, the association's chairman, said: "We have already seen the consequences of the King's Cross Underground fire and the Clapham train crash."

"While the people on the ground at the time responded with alacrity and must be congratulated, there was no real co-ordinated response."

"We need a specialist team with experience and technical ability to foresee the problems and needs of the victims and workers."

Spectra, page 11

MoD rebuff on surface fleet number angers MPs

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Ministry of Defence has refused to supply a senior all-party committee of MPs with the information it needs to establish the true strength of the Navy's surface fleet.

The ministry has declined to give the influential Conservative-controlled Select Committee on Defence regular breakdowns of exactly how many frigates and destroyers are operational at any one time.

That has infuriated the committee, which has almost unqualified power to call for information. It has sent the ministry a demand for the fleet's operations programme on which forward planning is based.

The MPs are pursuing the matter because they believe that ministers' repeated claims that the fleet is being maintained at "about 50" vessels mask the fact that at any one time up to a third of those may be unavailable.

In a searing report last June they described the fleet as overstretched, under-strength, increasingly outdated and scarcely able to meet peace-time commitments.

Earlier that month the nominal strength had been only 47, of which just 32 were fully operational. Repairs, refits and miscellaneous factors such as old age accounted for the non-availability of the rest.

The ministry angered the

MPs by sending what they considered an entirely inadequate formal response to their report which questioned their figures and failed to answer the important questions.

The committee sent the ministry its request for periodic breakdowns of the fleet's availability at the beginning last month, believing that only through a series of "snapshots" could it assess the real strength of the Navy.

Seven weeks later, just before the Commons rose for the Christmas recess last week and days before the deadline set by the committee, the ministry replied that the information was unavailable and could not be supplied.

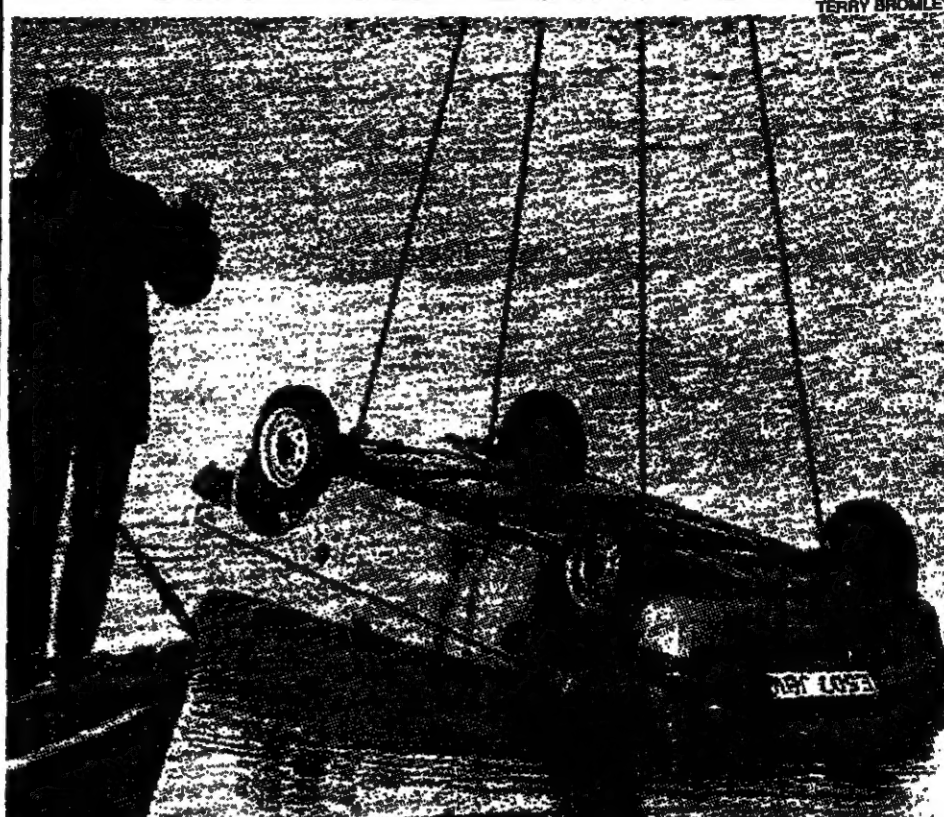
The MPs held a swift informal meeting at which they decided that they would not let the matter drop and to demand the operations programme.

"The impression we get is that the ministry is very reluctant to be helpful. It really does seem to be digging its toes in and saying the information we want cannot or will not be provided."

"One finds it hard to avoid the suspicion that the cloudier all this is the better from the Government's point of view", one member said yesterday.

He described the ministry's behaviour as "unacceptable". His colleagues were "miffed and annoyed".

Death car recovered



The car, in which the bodies of Mrs Elaine Smith and her son Christopher, aged seven, were found, is raised from the river Lune, Lancashire, yesterday. Her daughter Claire, aged three, was found drowned near by on Christmas Day.

Disaster counsel service underway

By David Sapsted

An emergency counselling service has been set up by psychiatrists and psychologists in Dumfries in an attempt to help those affected by the Lockerbie air crash come to terms with the tragedy.

"Judging by the experiences of other disasters, it will be a very long-term undertaking, maybe lasting years", Dr Robin McCreadie, senior consultant at the Crichton Royal Infirmary, said.

The knowledge accumulated by counsellors after recent disasters such as the King's Cross fire and Piper Alpha have been passed on to the Dumfries team.

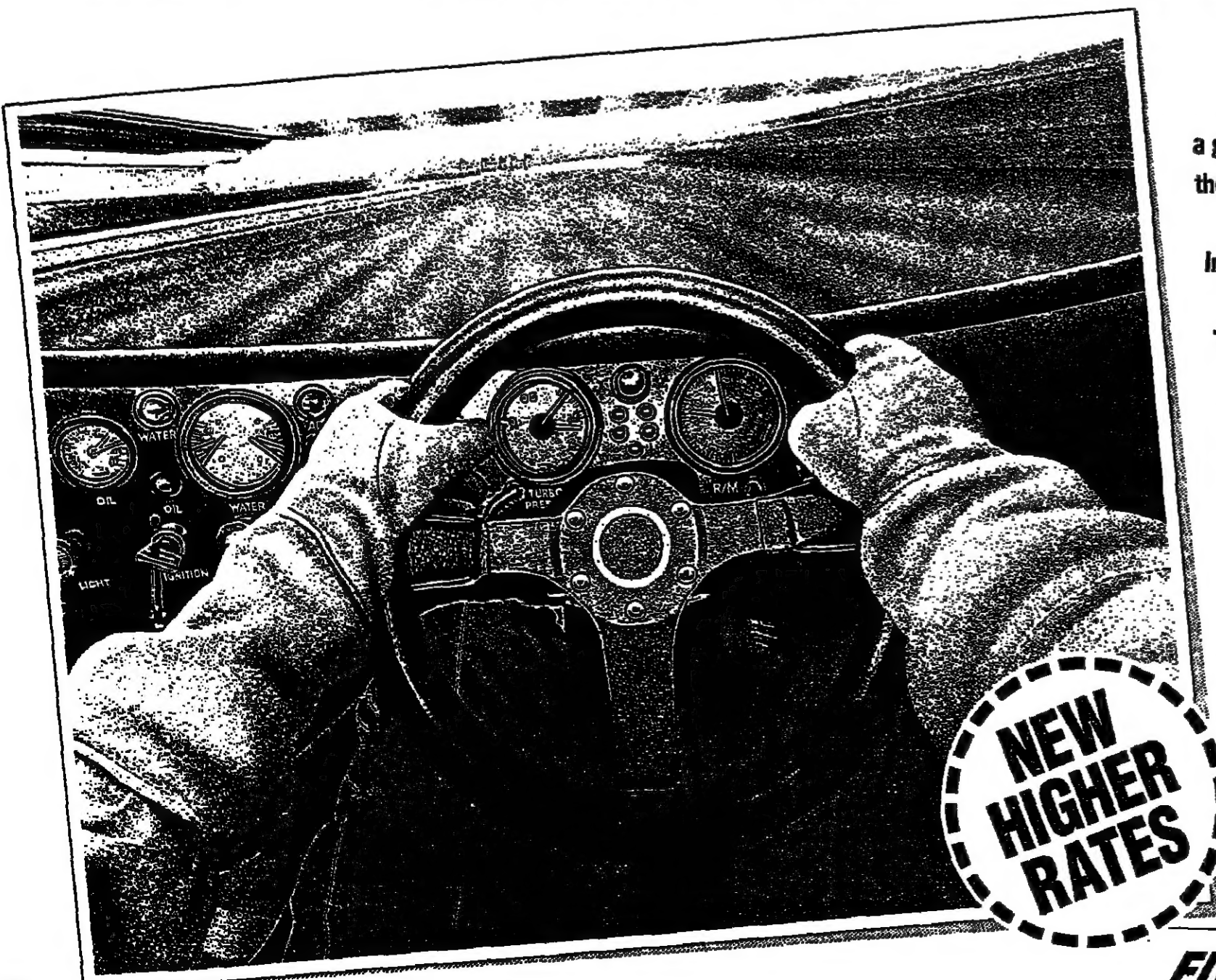
"Basically, we are focusing on the long-term effects on the residents of Lockerbie; the help that rescuers who have had to contend with such disturbing scenes might need; and counselling American relatives visiting the scene, though there have been very few of them", Dr McCreadie said.

"Our task as far as locals are concerned has been made much easier by the fact our community psychologist actually lives in Lockerbie and, in fact, witnessed the crash."

The team is working closely with both the social workers involved at the disaster emergency centre, the headquarters for rescuers involved in the search for bodies, the police and fire brigade.

Mr Ron McKechnie, a psychologist, said that there would also be difficulties in trying to get passengers' relatives to come to terms with their loss where a body had not been identified or even found.

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FIVE STAR SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Interest rate rises 'could bring decline in home ownership'

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Further increases in interest rates could lead to forced sales, falling house prices and, for the first time in memory, a drop in the proportion of owner-occupation, the Halifax Building Society warns the Government today.

Pointing out the danger to the growth in owner-occupation, a priority of the Thatcher government since 1979, the Halifax, Britain's largest building society, says that the housing market is being used as a key economic regulator.

As a result, home owners are having to bear an increasingly heavy burden of the Government's economic policies.

Property prices peaked in 1988 showing an annual increase of about 35 per cent, the strongest since 1973, but are likely to rise by only 5 per cent by the end of 1989, the Halifax Building Society reports.

That assessment confirms the end of the property boom, as increases now slow down in the north of the country and Scotland from the ripple effect in the South, but also indicates that there should be no danger of a collapse in property prices unless interest rates rise substantially.

The Halifax nevertheless gives a warning about the effects of mortgage interest rates. Mr Jim Birrell, chief executive, said: "We believe that our borrowers will be able to cope with the increase in mortgage repayments following the recent rises in base rates."

"But any attempt to use significantly higher interest

rates to cause house prices to fall could do great long-term damage to the whole concept of owner occupation.

"To turn any inflation rate from 34 per cent to an expected 5 per cent within a year is a minor achievement."

"However, unprecedented levels of mortgage rates would court serious risks in the housing market, which would undoubtedly spread to the economy as a whole."

While interest rates and house prices have gone up, mortgage interest tax relief has not been increased in recent years, and that has had a marked effect on the cost of housing, the Halifax report says.

Five years ago the average new borrower in London would have had an average advance of £26,000, attracting relief on the whole sum, and resulting in a nominal mortgage rate of 13.5 per cent, working out at a net rate of just 9.45 per cent.

Since then, tax relief has not been increased, and in real terms has been cut back severely, the Halifax says.

Today's London borrower needs a loan of £69,000 and for him or her the present nominal 13.5 per cent mortgage rate translates to a net 12 per cent.

However, a survey by Nationwide Anglia predicts that the rise in house prices is set to slow from 31 per cent this year to 10 per cent next year.

"This survey disproves the stories of doom and gloom we have been hearing over the last few months", Mr Brian

Whitfield, Nationwide Anglia's general manager, said. "The actual slowdown since the summer has been quite gentle."

House prices rose fastest in 1988 in Wales at 52 per cent, according to the survey. It was closely followed by the east Midlands at 51 per cent, west Midlands (47 per cent) and Yorkshire and Humberside (44 per cent).

London prices rose by just 15 per cent over the year, the lowest annual inflation rate in the UK. In East Anglia, one of the boom areas earlier in the year, prices fell by 1 per cent in the last quarter.

For the whole country, the 31 per cent price rise was the biggest increase since 1979 and was double the 1987 figure, Nationwide Anglia said.

One of the main features this year was the ripple effect as the huge increases in house prices experienced in London, spread throughout the rest of the UK. "At first, East Anglia, the Midlands and the South-west saw the biggest increases. "But as the year went on the boom spread to Wales and northern England — reversing the trend in 1987, when prices fell in some of these areas."

Mr Whitfield said the ripple effect had not yet run its course and would help to keep up national prices next year. "We expect Wales and northern England to be top areas in 1989, with annual house price rises of between 15 per cent and 20 per cent."

"But in east and south-east England, the figure is likely to be below 10 per cent."

The myths of conveyancing

By Our Property Correspondent

Legislation designed to end solicitors' monopoly of house sale conveyancing has in fact strengthened their position, an experienced conveyancing solicitor says in a book to be published next month.

He also says the belief that solicitors have had to reduce their fees because of increased competition is a myth.

Mr Michael Joseph states that the Administration of Justice Act, which inaugurated licensed conveyancers, had strengthened solicitors' hold on the process by making it illegal for an unqualified person to prepare a contract for sale, whereas hitherto it had been only preparing the deed of transfer which was illegal. He argues that the "handful of mini solicitors" —

the licensed conveyancers who have emerged as a result of the Act — have posed no threat to the solicitors' profession.

Another popularly held myth, Mr Joseph says, is that solicitors' conveyancing costs have been drastically reduced by having to compete with licensed conveyancers. Using a *Law Society Gazette* survey, he estimates that solicitors charge about £200 an hour for work "which is usually carried out by their unqualified clerk, or even secretaries".

He adds: "Now the senior partners of some top City firms currently admit to charging at the rate of £100 an hour, sometimes even £150 an hour. But how does the rank and file solicitor get away with

charging £200 an hour for routine conveyancing work?"

They do it, he says, by charging a percentage of the value or price of the house on which work has been done, rather than charging for the work itself, and in addition drag out the conveyancing process over three months or so "so that the customer will not know how much time the solicitor has actually spent".

Mr Joseph argues that the delays in moving house are caused in part by the "quite unnecessary ritual dance" of solicitors in submitting preliminary inquiries to the vendor's solicitor and the local search to the council.

The Conveyancing Fraud by Michael Joseph (27 Occupation Lane, London SE18 3JQ; £4.95),

£1 a loaf by end of century

By Tony Dawe

Petrol at £3 a gallon, beer approaching £2 a pint and bread £1 a loaf are the prices we will be paying in 2000 according to an economic survey published today.

Although depressing at first sight, the forecast is good news, for economists believe that salaries will increase faster than prices and the estimates are far lower than those made at the start of the 1980s.

Forecasts published then predicted petrol at £13 a gallon and beer at £3.57 a pint.

The latest figures come from the Woolwich Building Society whose economists have made the forecasts so that house prices, their main interest, can be related to the cost of everyday items at the start of the next century.

The survey predicts an average annual inflation rate of 5 per cent for the next 11 years while previous forecasts were

based on higher inflation rates and a rise in real terms in the price of crude oil.

According to the Woolwich survey, a gallon of petrol costing £1.70 today will go up to £3.05, a pint of beer will rise from £1.04 to £1.87 and a loaf of bread from 52p to 93p by 2000.

The Woolwich also forecasts an average 8 per cent a year rise in earnings, giving employees one and a half times more than they earn now. That means someone on £15,000 a year will be earning £37,500 by the year 2000 and someone on £25,000 will be worth £62,500.

As well as paying more for their beer and bread, they will have to find a much larger sum for their mortgages.

The Woolwich estimates that the average mortgage it grants today of £41,400 will have become £140,000 by the end of the century. The esti-

mates are based on the building society's firm belief that house prices will continue to soar for the rest of the century. It has produced a table of expected prices for three typical homes in 15 places around the UK.

A two or three-bedroom terrace house in Oxford, now priced at £83,000, for example, is expected to jump to £284,000 by the end of the century, while the same type of property in Liverpool, now costing £21,000, will have just overtaken this year's Oxford level at £84,000.

A four-bedroom detached house at Kingston, Surrey, will increase from £190,000 to £640,000 and the same style house in Newcastle upon Tyne from £63,000 to £255,000.

"People who fear the property market will be gloomy can take heart from the survey", Mr Paul Rogers, for the Woolwich, said yesterday.

Cabbies' heart attacks blamed on traffic jams

By David Sapsted

Worsening traffic congestion in London is being blamed for an increase in stress-related illness, including heart disease, among the capital's taxi drivers.

The Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association admits to mounting concern about the problem and is running a series of articles in its magazine *Taxi* on how drivers can identify and cope with stress caused by traffic jams.

Dr Tony Erlam, who holds monthly consulting sessions with London cabbies, says the problems facing some individuals have become so severe that he has had to tell them to give up taxi-driving.

Mr David Barnes, editor of *Taxi* and a taxi driver, says the increase in London traffic is directly responsible for cabbies' appalling record of heart disease and may, in fact, be resulting in premature deaths.

"It is not coincidence that when a new cardiac unit opened at the Charing Cross Hospital six or seven years ago, every single bed was

taken up by cab drivers", Mr Barnes said. "The truth about London traffic is that, whereas in the past you had early-morning and late-afternoon peak periods, you have now a day-long rush hour. It never ends off."

Dr Erlam said that there has been a steady rise of stress-related illness among cabbies since he started monthly counselling sessions a decade ago.

"It is hard to say whether this is directly related to the increase in traffic or to the fact that problems caused by stress are more readily recognized these days", he said.

"Obviously, though, people who spend all day in such conditions are prime candidates for stress. Cab drivers are in the front line of this problem. Even knowing London inside out offers no escape from the jams. We are laying our health and livelihoods on the line but nobody seems to be tackling the problem in any constructive way."

As millions of British workers reached the halfway mark yesterday in their Christmas holidays, their long break remained a profound mystery for most of their continental counterparts.

While all manner of British working men, from dukes to dustmen, rode to hounds, shot pheasants or exercised their whippets, the Paris metro was full of business suits yesterday.

It was the same throughout the Continent. On international stock exchanges as far apart as Tokyo, Frankfurt and New York, dealers were logging on to their screens in the hope of making a killing.

In Belgium, France and Italy, which are predominantly Roman Catholic countries, by December 26 a number of businesses had already started again and even the post was being delivered.

By yesterday everything was back to normal with only one other holiday, January 1, still

The long Christmas break

Britain's close-down amazes Europe

By Tim Jones and Philip Jacobson

to look forward to. In the City of London, silence reigned. The bulls and bears were still recovering from their group Moet, while their hand-held cordless telephones were being recharged.

Tomorrow, the City will be in second gear only as most of the senior managers have fled to the Caribbean or the Seychelles leaving behind their junior staff, with limited powers to take action.

These are the fail-safe devices preventing the office junior from becoming a managing director or bankrupting the company. In what the "working man" would call the "real world of graft" the dark satanic mills were also midway through the 12-day industrial rest.

All heavy industry was closed and will stay that way until next week.

Only a handful of oilcolliers, notably in Scotland, where they prefer to celebrate New Year's Day, will be open for a few days from today. Most

notably, all building work has come to a halt.

This is because of an agreement negotiated in the trade which gives workers a specific winter break to compensate for the harsh climate when, theoretically, no work is possible.

Over the Christmas period, London was the warmest capital in Europe and building workers were at home sweating in their T-shirts.

A spokesman for the Confederation of British Industry, which represents 250,000 firms employing 12 million people, said yesterday that most firms found it economical to shut down for a long holiday rather than to have a period of stop-go production.

"It is important to remember that what has now become a long traditional Christmas break is made up of accumulated days off coupled with agreed holidays."

"There is no question of firms just surrendering holidays which have not been

negotiated", he said. Production schedules would take account of the Christmas break and in many companies overtime would have been worked in order to fulfil orders before the holiday.

Large industries, such as British Steel, prefer to have long shut-downs as complex plant, such as blast furnaces, can be closed down for servicing only in a controlled and planned manner.

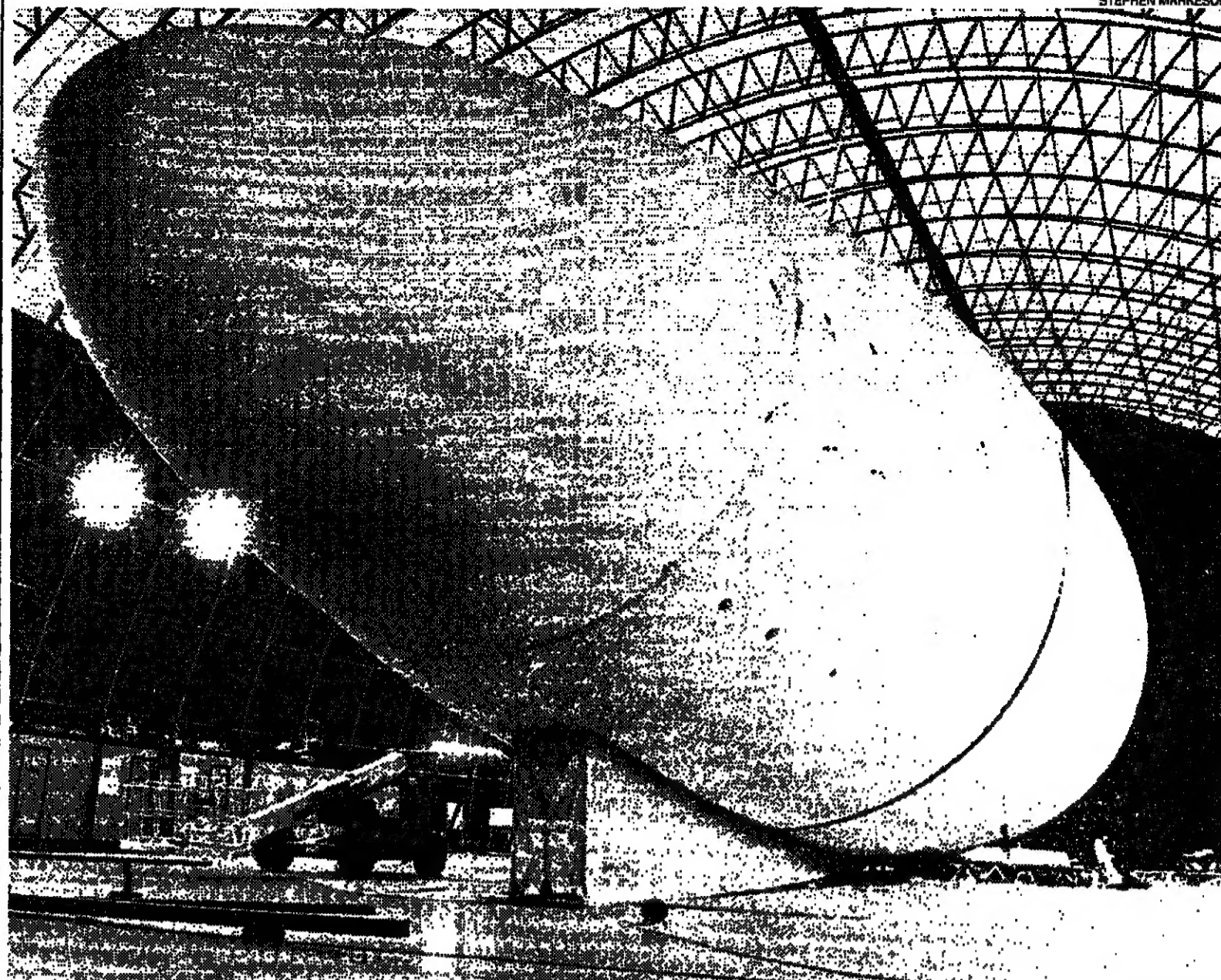
Most Frenchmen tend to think it is a joke when told that L'Angleterre goes to sleep for a week or more over Christmas.

But thousands of them religiously take to the ski slopes in mid-January every year. In the "new" France, with its eyes set on the new dawn of 1992, thoughts at Christmas of shutting down the economy as drastically as we do in Britain would never be considered.

Until August, that is, when for weeks Paris bears a remarkable likeness to London just after Christmas.

Airship shapes up for its first voyage

STEPHEN MARKSON



In a gigantic fabric hangar that resembles in passing a grounded Zeppelin, this is the first of the new breed of airship being built at Jurby in the Isle of Man.

The Advanced Non-Rigid (ANR) airship is on target for take-off in the early spring. The 200ft long lozenge of helium will carry 30 passengers or almost four tonnes of cargo at 50mph and its designers forecast a host of

uses from a vantage point for tourists to a platform for police or military radar. Each aircraft will cost about £2.5 million and have a range of up to 2,400 miles. Brigadier John Hooper, managing director of the Advanced Airship Corporation, said there was no shortage of interested customers in Britain, Europe, America and the Middle East.

Airships no longer had the shadow of the R101 or the Hindenburg disasters hanging over them. "People

forget that these aircraft operated regularly for many years between Germany and South America and across the Atlantic without a single life being lost", Brigadier Hooper said. "There was even a shuttle service by airship between Munich and Berlin which was so convenient and popular people used to strap-hang all the way."

"Unfortunately the concept was ahead of the technology and we all know what happens when hydrogen catches fire. Now technology is far

ahead of the concept and airships are extremely safe", he said.

The aircraft is powered by twin turbo-prop engines and has bow thrusters that assist manoeuvring at ground level.

Modern materials and ingenious design gives the airship strength and agility that the pioneers would have envied. "We are absolutely confident that at a push it would loop the loop — but not with me on board", the brigadier added.

Costa del Sol hotel services worry Anglicans

A drive is being launched by the Anglican church on the Costa del Sol in Spain to win back British holidaymakers who prefer to attend services organized by tour companies at the tourist hotels.

The Anglican church is suffering financial problems because of the growing trend for tour operators to include resident preachers in their long-term winter holidays. Anglican congregations have dropped by half, reducing income and jeopardizing plans to build a £80,000 community centre to help old, lonely and destitute expatriates.

Mr Norman Richard, an Anglican lay preacher in the resort of Fuengirola, said: "We hold three services a day on winter Sundays,

which raised about £300 to help towards the £12,000 a year we need for our chaplain. "That has been cut by 50 per cent. We get no financial help from the Church of England." Before the introduction of services in holiday

holidays, the company said: "We had queues at some of the shops and thousands of people ringing in". A travel industry spokesman said there was no indication that high interest rates were going to have any impact on holidays abroad.

hotels, British tourists crowded into a chapel borrowed from the local Roman Catholic community. Now congregations and cash offerings have slumped. Mr Richard added: "We are working hard to raise £80,000 for a new church and social centre to help

the needy". Declining attendances were causing concern.

The Rev Ron Matheson, chaplain for the past six years, said: "It would have made sense if the tour companies had consulted with us first, instead of sending clergy to hotels on our doorstep".

Mr Paul Bach, a spokesman for Saga Holidays, said: "We provide a full service for our clients' well-being — including having clergymen on hand to tend to people's spiritual needs in times of stress or ill health". Religious gatherings were held in hotel rooms "but it would be most inappropriate to make collections". His company would give consideration to any request for financial aid from the Anglican church.

Sisters killed in house fire

Three sisters aged three to eight died when fire swept through their home yesterday.

Their parents, another sister and three brothers, including the twin aged three of one of the dead girls, survived the blaze, which destroyed their two-storey council house in Ballyragget, Co Kilkenny.

It was the second such fire in the Irish Republic in two days. On Monday four children aged eighteen months to nine years were killed and their mother and father were injured in a blaze at Bray, Co Wicklow.

The girls who died in yesterday's fire were Julianne, aged eight, Colette, aged four and Aisling, aged three, daughters of Mr Michael Fitzpatrick and his wife, Jean, of Greenview Terrace, Ballyragget.

The children who survived were Siobhan, aged nine, Patrick, aged seven, Michael,

aged three and John-James, aged one. All were still in hospital yesterday, where their condition was described as comfortable.

The fire broke out soon after 7am when the three boys were downstairs playing with their Christmas toys while the rest of the family were still in bed.

Neighbours said the parents escaped from the blazing building with the three boys before realizing the girls were still inside.

One neighbour, Mr Stephen Donoghue, beat his way through the smoke and flames to rescue Siobhan, who suffered slight burns. He threw her down the stairs to safety.

Mr Donoghue could hear the other girls crying and screaming for help. But when he and other neighbours tried to get back in they were forced away by the smoke and heat.

Two of the girls had died in

their back bedroom. The other died beneath her bed in a front room.

Mrs Catherine Cassidy, the mother who survived the Co Wicklow blaze, was still in a critical condition in hospital yesterday, while the children's father, Mr John Cassidy, was said to be stable.

A man and his wife were in a serious condition at a special burns unit at Orla's Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire, yesterday after a fire at their home, killing their two pet dogs.

David and Rose Andrews, aged 50 and 40, were injured when flames swept their home at Woodlands, Middle Wintorslow, near Salisbury, early yesterday morning.

The couple's house was damaged, and homes near by had to be evacuated at the height of the fire. Police said it was thought an electrical fault may have started the fire.

Opera and ballet night to help Armenians

By Emma Wilkins

International opera singers and dancers will take part in a London fund-raising evening for the Armenian earthquake appeal, it was announced yesterday.

Members of the Bolshoi and Kirov ballet companies and singers from Yerevan and Leningrad will perform at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, on January 11.

They will join members of The Royal Opera, The Royal Ballet, Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, and the orchestra of the Royal Opera House con-

ducted by its music director, Bernard Haitink.

Those who take part, including Natalia Makarova, Thomas Allen and June Anderson, are giving their services free. The evening is being held in association with the Entertainment Corporation. Proceeds will go to the British Red Cross Armenian Earthquake Appeal.

A musical evening sponsored by *The Times* two weeks' ago at the Barbican raised £1 million.

Relief streamlined, page 8

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We welcome President Gorbachev's forthcoming visit to Britain as further evidence of the desire for progress in East-West relations which has been continuing since the 1975 Helsinki Accords on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

We urge a further strengthening of the Helsinki process in all its areas: security, economic co-operation and human contacts.

While acknowledging some progress, we view with concern the continued denial of basic human rights in the USSR particularly:

- ◆ the continued detention of prisoners of conscience
- ◆ the denial of the right to free emigration to 385,000 Soviet Jews who have expressed a desire to leave
- ◆ the introduction of restrictive new emigration rules in 1987
- ◆ the limits still placed upon religious and cultural expression.

Mr Gorbachev is likely to request that a Human Rights Conference be held in Moscow. Naturally we must assess the good faith of the Soviet Union in the light of improvements in the above conditions. We look forward to the day when these improvements take place at which time we will be able to give our warm support to the holding of such a Conference. Support at the present time would be premature.

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Tough jail sentences 'best way to cut property crime'

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Tough jail sentences cut crime against property more effectively and cheaply than increased numbers of police, according to a former Home Office economic adviser.

Dr David Pyle calculates that sending 10 per cent more offenders against property to prison would cut the crime rate by 8.5 per cent.

Longer sentences would also produce an 8.5 per cent cut. But increasing the number of police officers by 10 per cent would secure only a 3.2 per cent reduction in offences.

Dr Pyle, senior lecturer in economics at Leicester University, reports his findings in *Economic Affairs*, journal of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

He was dissatisfied by most work on the economics of crime and punishment using US data, and constructed an economic model of crime using data for a cross-section of forces in England and Wales. It used all forces except the Metropolitan Police and the City of

London. The results suggest that changing sentencing policy costs much less than increasing police numbers.

Each 1 per cent cut in property crimes, achieved by lengthening the time criminals spend in jail, costs £3.6 million, according to Dr Pyle's estimates.

Each 1 per cent cut achieved by sentencing more criminals to prison costs an estimated £4.9 million. But each 1 per cent cut secured by increasing police numbers costs £51.2 million, he says.

Criminals also respond to positive incentives. An increase in potential illegal gains encourages offences against property, while a reduction in unemployment discourages it, the study says.

"Rates of recorded property crime do respond to changes in deterrence and incentives, but the response is quite small.

"On the basis of these estimates it makes little sense to try to reduce property crime by employing more police officers", Dr Pyle reports. One

possible reason may be that some of these offences, such as burglary, are not directly deterred by, for example, extra police patrolling.

More police manpower can deter these offences only by increasing the detection rate, which is notoriously difficult, Dr Pyle says.

"Economic analysis of crime lends support to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's policy of increasing police spending and imposing tougher sentences on convicted criminals in order to reduce crime."

Though the costs of these policies is considerable the Government has pursued them. And yet crime has not come down.

"What has gone wrong? The more than doubling of unemployment since 1979 has entirely swamped the deterrent effects of increased spending on the police and harsher sentencing. The net result has been a rise in crime, falling detection rates and increasing misery."

Smiling through the sales crush

MARC ASPLAND



By Robin Young

One happy January sales customer in Selfridges, Oxford Street, London, yesterday, carries his purchases high above the shoppers as the capital's West End celebrated the second coming of the Christmas shopping crowds. There were crash barriers but few people in Regent

Street and Oxford Street when the doors opened, although crowds grew during the day. "The queues are so short you would feel silly joining them", one woman outside Dickins & Jones in Regent Street said at 8.30am. Outside Selfridges in Oxford Street there were about 100 people to hear a dixieland jazz band's efforts to put them in a big spending

mood. In Manchester there were long queues winding round Kendal Milne in Deansgate and Debenhams in Market Street. In Lewis's in Market Street a big attraction was Christmas cards reduced to half-price for use next year and, at the store's Leeds branch, customers cleared 3,000 boxes of cut-price cards in the first 30 minutes.

Rape victim loses benefit after award

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

A rape victim was deprived of social security benefit after receiving compensation, the National Association of Victim Support Schemes said yesterday.

The association is demanding a change in the rules. It says that many victims of violent crime had found themselves in the same plight. Mr Martin Wright, of the association, said: "One victim wrote to the Criminal Injuries Compensation

Board saying that she didn't want to receive her full award because she was afraid of losing her social security benefit".

The rape victim received £6,000 compensation and learnt from a Victim Support volunteer that she would lose benefit if she had been awarded more than £3,000, so she used the rest of it to pay off a bank loan and debts which had accumulated while she was unable to work.

Twenty months after she had received

her compensation, the department cut off her benefit payments.

The association says that benefits can be stopped if the compensation award is for £6,000 or more, although reductions can be made on a sliding scale after awards of between £3,000 and £6,000.

The Department of Social Security confirmed that payments received would be regarded as capital. The system was designed for the poorest and most vulnerable.

Plea for pupils to decide on worship

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Senior pupils at schools in England and Wales should be able to decide whether they continue to study religious education and to attend daily services, the National Association of Head Teachers says.

The association is to ask Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, to amend the Education Reform Act so that pupils aged between 16 and 19 can have the right to withdraw.

At present the Act allows only parents the right to remove their children from religious education and the morning assembly.

Mr David Hart, the association's general secretary, said yesterday: "We have a unique situation where pupils have the right at 16 to choose which subjects they will do for A level, AS level or in any of the wide range of 17-plus examinations now available, with this one unique exception.

"In this one subject of religious education they have no rights; it is only their parents who have the right to decide whether they should continue religious education and, in addition, whether they have to attend a daily act of Christian worship. These young adults have no rights at all.

"I think when people sit back and reflect on this situation, which is almost an anachronism, there could be some changes.

"We are not asking for a blanket exemption of 16 to 19-year-olds, but for the Government to consider amending

the Act to allow the pupil to have the right to be excused. This was one aspect of the Act that was badly overlooked when it was being debated in the summer."

Mr Hart also spoke of an inconsistency in the Act which meant that the religious requirements applied to all sixth formers in schools and in sixth-form colleges but not to students in tertiary colleges.

They are covered by regulations for colleges of further education.

Mr Colin Alves, general secretary of the Church of England's General Synod board of education, said the points had been put to the Government and had been rejected.

"If a pupil is a member of a school then he is bound by the rules of the school", he said.

"The same applies to a sixth-form college.

"It has to accept the responsibilities of being under the school regulations as well as the benefits.

"It comes as a package and it is rather late in the day to seek a change in the law."

● The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers is asking Mr Baker for urgent talks on restoring negotiating rights in time to settle teachers' pay claims for 1990.

It said: "The NAS/UTW will not suffer silently the loss of the basic trade union and democratic right to negotiate pay and conditions of service".

Road holes 'cost £220m each year'

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Delays and poor standards in repairing the three million holes dug in roads and pavements every year cost Britain £220 million, according to a Department of Transport advisory committee.

The holes, dug by gas, electricity, water, telephone and other undertakings, also add to traffic congestion, the committee says.

It is calling for legislation which would make the utilities totally responsible for filling the holes and reinstating the surface when work has been carried out, instead of, as at present, the responsibility being divided between the utilities and local authorities.

It also wants improved standards of supervision and management, and workers to be trained and given certificates of qualification.

The street works advisory committee, chaired by Mr Stuart Mustow, a consulting engineer, was set up after the publication four years ago of the Horne report on roads and the utilities. Consultations have lasted more than two years.

Mr Mustow says there is now almost unanimous agreement in his committee and among local authorities and the utilities that new legislation is needed to replace the Public Utility Street Works Act 1950.

Under the Act the utilities are responsible for temporarily making good the surface of a road or pavement after works have been completed.

But it is the local authorities which are responsible for the final resurfacing, which, to allow time for the filling to settle down, may not take

place for between six months and two years. During that time the temporary surface may have to be repaired several times, each time disrupting traffic.

Mr Mustow said: "On the very conservative assumptions that a third of the holes dug in Britain each year require extra attention costing £100, and a tenth of the holes result in adjacent damage costing £400, bad excavation and reinstatement is costing £220 millions a year".

He says that in London alone 600,000 holes are made in roads and pavements every year.

If half of those are on carriageways, and if many could be reinstated in one operation, instead of in at least two operations, it could, significantly reduce congestion.

Mr Mustow says there are no remaining obstacles to the introduction of legislation, "but sadly a space has not been found in the legislative programme for this year".

Mr Geoff Littlewood, divisional manager for the south and west division of the Thames Water Authority, said the authority supported the proposals outlined by Mr Mustow. It was hoped that national standards would be set for workmen responsible for filling trenches and reinstating the road surface, with men being trained to those standards.

The London Electricity Board said it had a very large construction programme to meet a big increase in demand in the West End, the City and docklands. Almost all the jobs required some street works.

Upsetting children can save a tobacconist £400.



If someone apparently under 16 asks for a packet of cigarettes, tobacconists must say no. The penalty for saying yes could be a fine of up to £400.

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Radioactive waste report may upset electricity plans

By David Walker, Public Administration Correspondent

A closely guarded report on the disposal of radioactive waste, due to be delivered to Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, before the end of this month, may severely disrupt his tight timetable for electricity privatization.

The report, from UK Nirex, the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive, says the Government must quickly decide on a long term site for nuclear wastes.

Temporary stores, it will say, are dangerous and costly and a single, central deposit is urgently needed. Nirex will hint that unless the Government makes a firm decision, the privatized electricity industry will have no guaranteed deposit for the radioactive material that will be generated, and could face gigantic bills.

The report will recommend at least three possible sites for a deep store, leaving Mr Parkinson with the unenviable task of alienating public opinion over an issue from which the Government has repeatedly backed away.

A previous effort by Nirex to get government backing for a long-term store founded in 1987 when Tory MPs, including the then chief whip, Mr John Wakeham, rebelled. This time Nirex is recommending sites in Scotland, Cumbria and Cleveland, away

from the Conservative Party's heartlands.

At the top of the new list is an excavation next to the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant run by British Nuclear Fuels. Sellafield already stores highly radioactive waste and at Drigg, near by, is Britain's only existing store for low level wastes. Sellafield is recommended because of its rail links and because it is already a concentrated storage point.

Nirex proposes drilling a deep mine running under the Cumbrian hills and fitting it as a permanent store.

Other candidates include a site next to the Dounreay reactor in Caithness. Nirex proposes drilling a mine out of the Atomic Energy Authority's property into land owned by Lord Caitness, who conveniently happens to be a Conservative minister of state at the Department of Environment.

The third, possibly most controversial candidate, is an existing mine at Billingham on Teesside.

The mine — for anhydrite, a kind of salt used in chemical processes — was excavated by ICI and has been abandoned. Previous explorations on the site by Nirex occasioned noisy protests, and although Billingham would probably be the cheapest option, the large number of people in Stockton

and Middlesbrough, near by, might rule it out.

Government sources have indicated that a decision on the Nirex report could come from Mr Parkinson as early as February. The later he leaves it, the more potential confusion there may be surrounding the issue of nuclear power generation after privatization.

After the Government ordered Nirex to stop its search for a shallow trench as the future deposit for low level wastes, it has been investigating geological options for a deep mine. It has ruled out drilling beneath the sea on the ground that public opinion is vehemently against it.

Nirex experts have visited Sweden to study a man-made installation in which drums of waste are packed in concrete and sealed into compartments.

The existing repository at Drigg is not yet full, but is not thought likely to offer long term prospects for storage. Nirex has been concerned only with low and intermediate level wastes — caused for example by the use of X-rays in hospital medicine, or material discarded by nuclear industry workers.

Highly radioactive material from within nuclear reactors is stored on the site of nuclear generating plants and there are no plans for a central depository.

Balmy weather brings out early blooms

PETER TREVINO



Plants at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, have reacted to the balmy airstream from the Canary Islands which brought Britain the mildest Christmas holiday weather on record by blooming early. With London warmer than Rome yesterday at lunchtime, the Japanese variety of wood hepatica being studied by Mr Tony Hall has flowered two to three months earlier than usual.

Heffer says leaders have lost faith in socialism

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

A senior Labour left winger accused leading members of his party yesterday of lacking faith in socialism and adopting a Thatcherite agenda.

Mr Eric Heffer, MP for Liverpool, Walton, who was defeated by Mr Roy Hattersley for the deputy leadership, said in a new year message to his

constituency party that even senior party figures had lost confidence in the Labour movement's future.

Without mentioning names, he said: "They accept the attitude similar to the rabbit before the stoat — either petrified into inactivity or into meaningless activity which they trust will meet with the approval of their political enemies". He said those

Labour members who believed the party could not win the next election were seriously wrong, and continued: "There are others, both in the movement and outside, who reflect the Thatcher view that socialism is either dead or has no real future. They are equally wrong."

Those who lacked confidence in Labour included some "in leading

positions". They were looking for a way forward through Thatcherism, proportional representation and coalition government. "Others seek not simply to change party policy but to fundamentally change the nature and character of the party, thereby transforming it into a party which accepts a capitalist system but with a slightly more benevolent face."

Police and the public

Force may release a code of conduct

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A statement of mission drawn up by Sir Peter Imbert, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and his senior commanders may be put to the public and politicians for their views.

A draft version of the code has been circulating among officers and staff for some weeks. The response is said to range from enthusiasm to anger where the code is seen as insulting. Overall, police are said to be in favour of the 10 points.

If the London force issues the statement others may fashion a similar one for their own officers.

In the next few weeks Sir Peter will decide whether to include the code in his annual strategy report to the Home Secretary as part of the general plan for the year ahead, or start asking London's MPs and consultative groups to give their views.

Sources within the Yard expect that the commissioner will decide to get public views on the code which may later be printed and distributed throughout the force.

The draft code suggests the purpose of the Metropolitan Police is to: uphold the law fairly and firmly; maintain the public peace; act with honesty and integrity; adopt the highest standards; and be compassionate and courteous to others; and uphold individual rights. They should behave in a manner which is neither

racist nor sexist; serve the public; be a cost-effective service; and co-operate and consult with the community and other agencies in pursuing the police purpose.

The code was drawn up after a consultants' report on the image of the Metropolitan Police pointed to the need for the police to have a clear list of goals. There was no common sense of purpose.

When the force was created in 1829 it was given a mission statement setting out general aims and this had been re-interpreted in a booklet produced by Sir Kenneth Newman, Sir Peter's predecessor. But the mission statement needed further revision and the work had already been started even before the report was completed.

The report, by Wolff Olins, noted there was "no consistency of views on the overall mission of the Met nor how each individual contributes to the whole". Officers had a high degree of independence in the way they worked.

The report called for the force to feel more united and be clearer about what it was set up to do. It should adopt a more positive attitude towards the concept of service.

The report, *A Force for Change*, also suggests changing management operations and the presentation of the force's public image through factors such as the appearance of police stations.

'Workshops' used to improve image

By Our Crime Reporter

One of the country's biggest police forces is brushing up its image for the new year and has sent thousands of officers back to school to learn how to deal with the public.

More than 3,500 members of the Thames Valley force and 1,400 staff have been attending one-day "workshops" to teach them new skills in handling the public.

Senior officers believe the courses have already helped to create a 15 per cent drop in complaints against the force.

The workshops and other ideas being tried by Thames Valley could be taken up by other forces.

Thames Valley took advice from Wolff Olins, the design consultants who have recently carried out research on the public image of the Metropolitan Police.

The workshops are part of a programme called "Make Contact" which also includes the use by officers of special visiting cards so that the public can identify who they dealt with and where to find them. The cards include the name, station and telephone extension where the officer can be reached.

The workshops also involve videos and courses in body language.

Instructors set officers scenarios to consider, so that they can decide the best way to

solve them. They might, for example, be asked how to handle an irritable member of the public at a station counter.

The programme may also lead to a radical change in police uniform and stations. The force is considering the wearing of identity badges by all officers so that they present a more human face to the public than simply the traditional police number on their shoulders.

Public areas of police stations may also be brightened up and opened to the public much in the way that some institutions such as banks have now created larger public areas.

The contact programme was initiated by Mr Colin Smith, the chief constable of Thames Valley, and Mr Barry Rutherford, his deputy, in a drive to build closer links with the public.

Mr Smith said he believed his force offered a first-class service, but this had to be communicated to the public.

Junior officers have followed up the workshops with suggested improvements in the way stations deal with the public by placing greater emphasis on the importance of officers responsible for general station duties and answering queries. These should no longer be regarded as "sin bins" for officers.

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NOBODY DOES IT BETTER

Mystery over failure to release French hostage sisters

From Philip Jacobson
Paris

The ordeal of the two young French sisters in the hands of a Palestinian extremist group continued yesterday with reports from Lebanon suggesting that they had still not been allowed to leave Beirut.

It now appears that Virginie and Marie-Laure Valente, aged six and seven, remained in detention at the very moment on Monday when a spokesman for the Abu Nidal faction was assuring their family that they had been liberated as a gesture to mark Christmas.

According to Palestinian sources in Beirut yesterday, the release was delayed at the last moment because, after holding the girls with their mother Jacqueline (who gave birth to another daughter, Liberte, in captivity) and five Belgians for more than a year, Abu

Nidal had decided to send them on their way in person. Other reports from the Lebanese capital suggested that the sisters would shortly be released into the care of Colonel Gaddafi, following the Libyan leader's appeal on their behalf. Their release could then be exploited to his own advantage in the international community.

Whatever the exact reason for the last-minute hitch, a bitterly realistic judgement came from the girls' grandmother, Mme Brigitte Valente, who had flown to Beirut with other members of the family just before Christmas to plead with the terrorists, only to return to France broken-hearted and empty-handed.

"We have been manipulated," Mme Valente said from her home in Lyons. "I think they are going to keep up the suspense, but in any case, the family can do nothing more. Now it is up to the Government."

The cynicism with which Abu

Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council appears to have been using Marie-Laure and Virginie for propaganda purposes has undoubtedly rebounded against them in France.

Yesterday's newspaper headlines, often above a charming photograph of the girls, spoke of "heartless trickery" and the "deepest anguish" of the Valente family.

As the confusion mounted, the French Foreign Ministry — which has been criticized for not working more vigorously to secure the freedom of Mme Valente and her daughters since they were abducted from a converted sardine boat off the coast of Lebanon and accused of spying for Israel — would say only that "efforts are continuing".

Mme Brigitte Valente said the Quai d'Orsay had told the family to be prepared to wait, "so we are waiting".

Meanwhile, having left her

grandchildren's intended Christmas presents with a French journalist in Beirut, she dispatched a tearful New Year's message to all the hostages, praying that 1989 "will see the end of this nightmare".

BEIRUT: The Abu Nidal organization yesterday had no explanation for its delay in delivering the two sisters to their father in Paris (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Perhaps the only thing that became apparent, as another day passed without a single clue on the whereabouts of the girls, was that the world's most feared Palestinian faction has chosen to take advantage of international attention on the case to warn against an American attack on Libya.

Officials of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council kept emphasizing that Marie-Laure and Virginie will arrive in France at some point and everything seems to indicate that Abu Nidal's men will eventually

deliver the girls as their belated Christmas present to the children of the world.

The questions are when, how and from where, but all of that, of course, remains a real mystery.

In an effort to add weight to claims that the release and transportation arrangements had taken place as planned, the FRC yesterday went as far as to claim that the notorious Mr Sabri el-Banna, the real name of Abu Nidal, had personally seen the girls off to Paris. "Abu Nidal, the Secretary General of the Fatah Revolutionary Council, visited Marie-Laure and Virginie at a secret post in Lebanon and wished them a safe trip to their family," said a statement of the group.

Abu Nidal, who has not been seen for years, was accompanied by Mr Salim Ahmed his deputy, and that both had "expressed their satisfaction over the special security arrangements," it added.

Mr Walid Khaled, the FRC

spokesman in west Beirut, was in usual serene temperament when he told reporters that the two girls were "very happy, they are eating chocolates and have gained weight". Mr Khaled, however, offered no clues on when they would become visible. "I cannot set a specific date for the arrival in Paris or say anything more than what has been mentioned in the statement," he said.

The FRC said on Monday that the girls had been released and were expected to arrive by air to Paris the same night.

An unidentified man who answered the telephone at the offices of the Fatah Revolutionary Council in west Beirut yesterday told a reporter that the delay had to do with bad weather conditions in the Mediterranean.

If the storms castigating the Levant for the past three days are indeed conspiring against the girls' arrival in France, they certainly appear to be acting in favour of

Abu Nidal, who has once again captured a world audience at the precise time when Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader and main supporter of the FRC, feels threatened by the United States.

In an obvious reference to President Reagan's alleged intention to take military action, possibly with European help, in order to prevent Libya from producing chemical weapons, the FRC communique warned that such operation would inevitably provoke retaliation from Libya's allies.

Libya has denied allegations it plans to produce toxic gas and maintains that the factory that Washington says can become a main outlet of chemical weapons is in reality a pharmaceutical plant.

"Reagan will carry the responsibility for any expected reactions to this threat by revolutionary forces," the FRC communique said.

Israel's economic crisis

Peres moves swiftly to devalue shekel by 5%

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Mr Shimon Peres, only five days after taking office last Thursday as the new Israeli Finance Minister, yesterday took his first decisive step towards coming to grips with the country's troubled economy and devalued the shekel by 5 per cent.

The move by Mr Peres, the Labour Party leader, served notice that Israel is to pursue a far more interventionist economic policy than Mr Moshe Nissim, his Likud Party predecessor.

During Mr Nissim's two years at the Treasury, he single-mindedly implemented a sit-tight policy, the primary aim of which was to keep inflation below 20 per cent a year. While he achieved that goal, critics have charged that this was at the expense of a deepening recession and a disturbing rise in unemployment.

Industrialists in particular, backed by the Bank of Israel, have been calling during the past couple of months for a devaluation, primarily to bring down real wage costs and to enhance the declining competitiveness of exports.

Mr Peres, who has been holding a marathon series of consultations with representatives from all sectors of the economy since he took office, had made it clear he was reluctant to devalue the currency except as part of a package which included massive public spending cuts.

But widespread anticipation of a devaluation had led to a mass flight from the shekel over the past few months, with Israelis buying foreign currency worth more than \$2 billion (£1.1 billion). Yesterday alone, a record \$170 million-worth of foreign cur-

rency was purchased. It was apparently this that prompted Mr Peres to move yesterday, surprising most observers who did not expect him to act before he had finalized the details of an overall economic package with the country's industrialists and unions.

It has been suggested that yesterday's devaluation may have been a stop-gap measure intended to end public speculation and stem the flight from the shekel, with another possibly larger devaluation in the offing.

The Bank of Israel has been seeking for a 15 per cent devaluation, to be accompanied by a \$1 billion cut in public spending — a call supported by industry.

Mr Peres has made it abundantly clear that the stonewalling approach of the unflappable Mr Nissim is not his,

and that some decisive steps are going to be taken.

The Labour leader has claimed much of the credit for extricating Israel from the far more dangerous economic crisis it faced four years ago, when as Prime Minister for the first two years of the last Government he oversaw measures that brought down inflation from more than 400 per cent a year to the current levels of under 20 per cent.

Although Mr Peres accepted the Treasury portfolio with demonstrable reluctance as a poor second to his preferred choice of the Foreign Ministry, there can be little doubt that he is determined to tackle Israel's deeply troubled economy with the same tireless activism that characterized his last two years as Foreign Minister, when he worked obsessively.

Paying tribute to Java's god of fire



Four men standing inside the volcanic crater of Mount Bromo, eastern Java yesterday. They were waiting to collect gifts and sacrifices thrown down by pilgrims in a Hindu-Buddhist ceremony to placate the local fire god and ensure good harvests.

Arens consults Husain about quest for regional peace deal

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Mr Moshe Arens, the new Israeli Foreign Minister, has written to King Husain of Jordan on moves to bring about a Middle East peace settlement, officials said yesterday.

The move confirms that Israel's planned new peace initiative depends in part on bringing Jordan back into the peace process. On the other hand, prospects for a visit to Israel by President Mubarak of Egypt appeared to recede yesterday when a senior Egyptian official said such a visit was conditional on Israeli agreement to dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization. The new Israeli Likud-Labour coalition has rejected contacts with the PLO.

Mr Arens's letter to King Husain stresses the important role that the Jordanian monarch plays in the region, officials said. The letter, to be conveyed by Senator Jay Rockefeller, a Democrat from West Virginia, who saw Mr Arens yesterday and is visiting Amman today, says that Israel is studying Jordanian positions carefully. Mr Rockefeller

also had a meeting with Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, who told him that Israel would soon launch a political initiative on Middle East peace.

Mr Shamir added that his proposals would be "very remote" from the ideas propounded by Mr Yassir Arafat, the PLO chairman, who seeks the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Mr Shamir said Israel would try to persuade the United States to give up its dialogue with the PLO, since any encouragement shown to the PLO could only be an impediment to peace.

The Israeli initiative reportedly includes proposals for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at future peace talks.

In theory, this would overcome the problem of how to

select Palestinian representatives. On the other hand, last July, King Husain severed his formal links with the West Bank, clearing the way for the PLO to assert its jurisdiction in the region and to declare an independent state of Palestine.

Negotiations have been taking place between Cairo and Jerusalem in the past few days over the proposed visit to Israel by President Mubarak. But Mohammed Bassiouny, the Egyptian Ambassador to Israel, said after meeting Mr Arens that the Egyptian leader could only come to Israel if Jerusalem could offer "something new".

Dr Butros Butros Ghali, the Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said yesterday that the proposed Egyptian-Israeli summit was conditional on Israel talking to the PLO.



Mr Arens: Studying position of Jordan carefully.

US call for Middle East missile talks

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States intends to invite Israel and Egypt to participate separately in talks in Washington to explore ways of limiting the use and development of ballistic missiles in the Middle East.

American officials have been growing increasingly alarmed about the spread of ballistic missiles in the region. Some Middle East countries have acquired new ballistic missiles capable of carrying chemical or even nuclear warheads. The initial aim of the

talks would be to discuss limited steps that nations in the region might take, such as providing notice of missile test launches, to reduce fears of surprise attacks.

The long-term aim would be to persuade Middle Eastern countries to accept a comprehensive arrangement to remove the risk of surprise attack and to limit missile forces in the region.

Until now, US policy has focused on preventing non-Western nations from obtain-

ing either missiles or the technology to build them. Officials said that policy must now be supplemented with attempts to control the spread of missiles.

President-elect George Bush has said that he intends to make the question of the spread of ballistic missiles a priority.

A report issued in October by the Congressional Research Service said that "more countries in the Middle East than in any other region have

recently obtained missiles". Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Libya, Iraq and Iran had ballistic missiles of various ranges.

Some administration officials wanted the proposed talks to focus on the possibility of Middle Eastern countries giving a pledge against "first use" of missile-borne weapons. Pentagon officials successfully opposed the idea, arguing the talks should deal only with controlling the spread of missiles.

workers from elsewhere total around 5,000. These outsiders, however, do not enjoy the same conditions as the locals.

Mr Jiao Binhang, aged 22, came from Inner Mongolia, a 17-hour journey by train with his girlfriend and seven friends to work in Daqizhuang.

"I was working as a peasant there, and I didn't earn enough to eat properly," he says. Now he earns around 200 yuan a month working in a car body factory, nearly double what an ordinary factory worker earns.

Although he married his girlfriend four months ago, he lives apart from her in a dirty unheated room shared with 17 others. She lives in a dormitory for female workers and earns 120 yuan a month. "I have no contact with the native villagers," said Mr Jiao. The outsiders were eager to share their complaints with

Child abductions worry Britain

By Nicholas Beeston

The Foreign Office is growing increasingly concerned about the rapid rise this year in the number of child abductions from Britain, involving children whose parents dispute their custody.

The Annual Review of Consular Work 1988 released today says that 140 children involved in 96 cases were taken out of the country illegally, mostly to North Africa, the Gulf States and Spain.

"The child abduction cases are the most heart-rending of the year," said Mr Tim Eggar, the Foreign Office minister responsible for consular affairs.

In most cases, consuls and British courts are almost powerless to return a child to Britain because the country concerned is not a signatory of The Hague and European Conventions on Child Abduction and Custody.

Most Muslim countries award the father custody of a child.

Although Spain has signed the agreements, repeated pleas for help in a number of child abduction cases have gone unheeded.

The consular report says that about 25 million Britons travelled abroad last year, and shows a jump by 19 per cent to 1,677 in the number of British prisoners serving sentences abroad this year.

The largest category was for Britons detained for drugs-

related offences. There were 782 this year, only five less than 1987.

Mr Eggar identified the British troublemakers as "a tiny number of Britons normally young, normally drunk and normally male" and said that the worst incidents of British brawling and hooliganism in 1988 were committed by British tourists in Spain and Greece.

He singled out the consular staff in Athens for special praise for the assistance they gave hundreds of British holidaymakers who suffered in the terrorist attack on the City of Potosi ship and the Jupiter ferry which sank after colliding with a tanker in Piraeus harbour.

The British Ambassador in Luxembourg, Mrs Juliet Campbell, was also mentioned for allowing a British holidaymaker who could not afford a camp site fee to pitch his tent in her garden. In Moscow, the consul lent his boxer shorts to a woman who was in hospital and ran out of underwear.

The report predicts that cheaper package travel holidays to more remote regions of the world will lead to a greater strain on consular services.

Mr Eggar said that the Foreign Office is planning to open 19 new honorary consular posts from Turkey to Brazil. But he warned travellers to be careful.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Five dissidents are accused

Moscow — Proceedings have been started against five people in Leningrad under the Russian Federation criminal code relating to "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda", it was confirmed yesterday (Marty Dejevsky).

A senior KGB official, Mr Aleksandr Fyodorov, denied Western reports that the five members of the unofficial Democratic Union were under arrest or in prison. The five are Yekaterina Podolskaya, aged 39, Valery Terekhov, 40, Yuli Rybakov, 42, Aleksandr Skobov, 31, and Rostislav Yevdokimov, 38. Vladimir Yermolenko is under investigation for "hooliganism". The charges relate to allegations that they appealed for the overthrow of the system by force.

African students held

Peking (AP) — At least 130 African students were being held yesterday in a Nanjing hotel to separate them from angry Chinese students after two days of anti-black demonstrations. Four US students, all white women, were also being held, but the circumstances of their detention were not clear. Racial tension has been mounting at Hehai University in Nanjing as campus authorities tried to build a wall around a dormitory housing its 55 African students.

Leaders' Unita plea

Los Angeles (Reuters) — Southern African leaders yesterday urged US President-elect George Bush to end support for Dr Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels in Angola. President Kaunda of Zambia, chairman of the six frontline states, opened a one-day meeting in Lusaka called to review the regional situation since the signing of accords last week on the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and independence for Namibia.

"We hope that President-elect Bush will declare to our satisfaction that his Administration will not continue to support bandits of Unita," President Kaunda said.

Ferry sinks with 400

Dhaka — At least 400 people were missing after an overcrowded ferry boat rammed an oil tanker in thick fog and capsized about 30 miles south of Dhaka yesterday (Ahmed Fazi writes). Rescue workers said about 43 passengers swam to safety before the double-decker ferry sank in the River Sitalakhyia.

China's industrial revolution

Deng's model city is home to winners and losers

From Catherine Sampson
Tianjin

In Daqizhuang, managers live in luxury villas while workers who have left poor areas to seek prosperity here live in cramped and dirty dormitories.

Ten years ago, Daqizhuang was a poverty-stricken village, tilling poor soil. Labeled as a model of the new zeal following the move away from the land and into township-run enterprises, it is now an example of all that is best and worst about the industrial revolution prompted by the reforms of Mr Deng Xiaoping.

The managers of the five companies operating in the village live in a walled compound guarded by armed militia. Their villas have garages, and some are guarded by assistants. The manager of the First Commercial Company earns 200,000 yuan (about £34,000) a year,

representing 1 per cent of the profits of his company. He contracted to run the company on this profit basis.

The manager's 11-room home, which is rent-free, is a study in overstated wealth. It has padded walls, recessed lighting, hidden central heating, mirrored walls and an excess of garish brass fittings.

Mr Li Fengzhuang, the deputy manager of the entire Daqizhuang project, boasts that the standard of living for the villagers is much higher than in the towns. "Four hundred homes have telephones, and we plan many more," he says.

Mrs Li Zhengde (no relative to Mr Li Fengzhuang) is typical of the Daqizhuang natives. She lives in a spacious flat with her husband, three sons and ageing parents. One of her sons owns a handsome Honda motorbike, they have hot running water and a bathroom. Mrs Li, who

has heart trouble, is helped with her medical expenses by the township.

No one pays rent, and villagers have an average living space of 26 square metres compared with nearer eight in the cities. The township has introduced a pension system and there is free education.

Mr Li said that, including welfare payments, the average annual income for a worker in Daqizhuang was 4,000 yuan, compared with a national average per capita income of 779 yuan last year. Many women in Daqizhuang have left the workforce to become housewives because they are wealthy enough no longer to need two incomes.

However, Daqizhuang's enterprises rely heavily on workers from outside the village who have heard that the town's streets are paved with gold. Its native labour force numbers less than 1,500, while

workers from elsewhere total around 5,000. These outsiders, however, do not enjoy the same conditions as the locals.

Mr Jiao Binhang, aged 22, came from Inner Mongolia, a 17-hour journey by train with his girlfriend and seven friends to work in Daqizhuang. "I was working as a peasant there, and I didn't earn enough to eat properly," he says. Now he earns around 200 yuan a month working in a car body factory, nearly double what an ordinary factory worker earns.

Although he married his girlfriend four months ago, he lives apart from her in a dirty unheated room shared with 17 others. She lives in a dormitory for female workers and earns 120 yuan a month. "I have no contact with the native villagers," said Mr Jiao. The outsiders were eager to share their complaints with

the first foreign reporters to visit their dormitories, much to the discomfort of Mr Li. "There are no welfare payments of any kind," said one man. "This is no different from capitalist exploitation."

Township officials would make no comment on allegations that workers were beaten by foremen and that workers coming from outside Daqizhuang were not paid for their first three months' work. Some claimed that when Mr Zhao Ziyang, General Secretary of the Communist Party, visited Daqizhuang, he did not visit their living quarters or speak to them.

One worker said that a friend had contracted to run a dance hall in the township. When it became clear that his enterprise was profitable, the "dance hall was closed with the words 'If anyone's making money, it should be us, not you outsiders'."

Ski Thomson NEW YEAR SUPERSKI DEALS					
DESTINATION	NTS DATE	AIRPORT	HOTEL GRADE & BOARD*	PRICE	
French Alps	7-21 Dec	Lyon	— SC	£125	
Austria	7-14 Jan	Lyon	17 BB	£90	
Switzerland	7-14 Jan	Lyon	— SC	£125	
French Alps	14-21 Jan	Lyon	Châlet BB	£280	
French Pyrenees	7-14 Jan	Lyon	— SC	£85	
Spanish Pyrenees at Andorra	7-21 Dec	Gatwick	— SC	£115	
Spanish Pyrenees	7-21 Dec	Gatwick	— SC	£140	
Austria	3-14 Jan	Gatwick	17 BB	£70	
Italian Alps	4-14 Jan	Gatwick	17 HB	£120	
French Alps	7-14 Jan	Gatwick	27 HB	£170	

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US lists European goods to be hit by tariffs in meat war

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States has drawn up a list of goods that will be subject to retaliation once a European ban on American meat treated with growth hormones goes into effect on January 1.

Among items expected to be listed this week are Danish hams, French cheeses and Italian canned tomatoes. They will be subject to 100 per cent tariffs under an executive order that has been signed already by President Reagan.

The move, to be announced by Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative, has been designed to "make sure the Europeans know exactly where they stand if they go ahead", Mr Kelly Shipp, an aide to Mr Yeutter, said.

American officials said it appeared that nothing would stop the imposition of the Community ban.

Washington made a formal request last week for a delay in the action, but officials said the Europeans turned it down.

No meetings or even telephone conversations were planned before January 1.

The retaliation affects about \$100 million (£58 million) of annual imports from the European Community.

The proposed list was scaled down after the EEC exempted from the proposed import ban about \$20 million of imported

American meat used as pet food.

American consumer groups support the European action, arguing that the hormones are damaging to health.

But they have not fought to ban the use of hormones in meat consumed in the US because, they say, there are higher priorities.

"We are still very supportive of what the Europeans are doing," the Public Voice for Food and Health Policy, a pressure group specializing in food issues, said in a statement.

The ban on hormone-treated meat was to have taken effect a year ago, but implementation was delayed in the hope of reaching an understanding with the United States that would prevent a clash.

In the event, there were only sporadic negotiations in which neither side showed any inclination to compromise.

In the meantime, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina decided to export hormone-free beef.

American officials, who acknowledge that more than half of American cattle are treated with hormones, said the Community would require certification by the Agriculture Department that meat was free of hormones, in turn

requiring the creation of an expensive bureaucracy.

The disagreement comes amid broader clashes over food trade policy arising out of European Community plans to create a single market by 1992.

The Reagan Administration has made it clear that it will take counter-measures against any European retaliation to its latest move.

Senior officials said that Washington and Brussels would reassess the situation after the sanctions went into effect, in the hope of preventing the skirmish escalating into a trade war.

The Agriculture Department insists that there is no conclusive proof that the five growth hormones allowed in the United States — testosterone, oestradiol, progesterone and two synthetic compounds, zeranol and trenbolone acetate — pose a health threat.

The US has offered to try to resolve the conflict under the standards code of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Officials emphasized that the thrust of American policy was to seek the removal of global restrictions preventing free agricultural trade, which is seen as a way to reduce the huge US trade deficit.

Mother Theresa comforts Armenia



Mother Theresa, left, with some of her Sisters of Charity, consoling a girl survivor in a Yerevan hospital yesterday.

Kremlin streamlines relief effort

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet authorities are tightening up the organization of the disaster relief effort in north-eastern Armenia to try to accelerate the distribution of supplies.

The Politburo commission overseeing the operation said an interdepartmental group had been set up to co-ordinate transport services and that organizations and officials would be fined if they did not unload freight fast enough. The North Caucasus rail department has been split into three sections, each of which will be monitored constantly, and a system of priorities established according to which fuel, prefabricated housing, and building brigades will take precedence.

The changes follow more than two weeks' criticism about delays and disorganization in the provision and distribution of supplies to the areas affected by the December 7 earthquake, in which an estimated 55,000 people died.

Meanwhile, evidence continues to emerge of how the aftermath of the earthquake has exacerbated existing tensions between Armenia and the neighbouring republic of Azerbaijan. A Soviet newspaper said yesterday that medical staff at a military hospital in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, had been threatened with reprisals if they continued to treat Azerbaijani patients. The army paper, *Red Star*, said that inflammatory

leaflets had begun circulating in the hospital after reports that an Azerbaijani mechanic was being treated there. He was the single survivor of an air crash which killed nearly 70 Soviet servicemen being flown to the city of Leningrad to help with the earthquake relief work.

The original reports had avoided identifying the mechanic, Balyayev, as an Azerbaijani, noting instead that he came from Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

Yesterday's article cited the incident as evidence that some Armenians were trying to conceal the fact that Azerbaijan, like all the other Soviet republics, had offered to help in the relief effort.

Immediately after the earthquake, the Soviet media carried many reports of Azerbaijani expressions of sympathy and offers of help. Later comment suggested that these had been widely dismissed by Armenians as propaganda and had only inflamed passions further.

Rumours that there had been dancing in the streets of Baku and that some Armenians had received greetings telegrams from Azerbaijanis after the earthquake were more readily believed, and the Health Minister confirmed that antipathy between the two republics had led to Azerbaijani offers of medical help being turned down.

Yesterday's article in *Red Star* said

that Azerbaijanis had so far contributed five million roubles (£5 million) to the national disaster fund.

But it admitted that the fate of some relief consignments from Azerbaijan was unknown, suggesting that they might have been diverted or even destroyed en route. Earlier reports have described Azerbaijani convoys being turned back at the republic border or transported under continual harassment from local people.

The same article also revealed that the unofficial Armenian Karabakh Committee, which has led the campaign for the transfer of Armenia of the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, is continuing to operate despite the detention of five of its leaders in Yerevan the weekend after the earthquake. Attempts were being made to set up subgroups of the committee in colleges and factories to agitate for the release of its leaders.

Central Soviet publications are being careful to match reports of continuing nationalist activity in Armenia and measures against it with similar reports on Azerbaijan. From details in the reports, it is clear that nationalist sentiment over Nagorno-Karabakh has permeated the upper echelons of official organizations in both republics, and a settlement of the dispute will be more difficult now than before the earthquake.

Strikes herald Belgrade reforms

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Fresh strike threats and public calls for the sacking of the federal Government have increased the pressure on Yugoslavia's leaders as they prepare to launch a New Year package of market-orientated economic reforms.

In the past few days trade union leaders throughout the country have threatened to strike for higher pay as doubts grow that the reforms will halt soaring prices.

At the same time, one leading Yugoslav newspaper called on the federal Parliament to sack the Yugoslav leader, Mr Branko Mikulic, over the Government's "failure" to present a convincing and consistent programme for economic recovery, while another, *Borba*, the authoritative daily, stated bluntly that the Government which had brought the country to the "brink of catastrophe" should resign.

Railworkers in Serbia warned they would strike unless their salaries were increased by 60 per cent.

From Macedonia, the most southern and Yugoslavia's poorest republic, the unions warned that the situation could easily explode after the recent spell of new price increases reaching a climax in last week's announcement that the Yugoslav electricity board intends to increase prices by more than 70 per cent — the third increase in six months.

Union leaders in Croatia were examining demands issued earlier for a general strike in the republic.

When the Government came into office almost three years ago Yugoslav inflation was 80 per cent. It has now soared to 230 and economists forecast it will top 400 per cent by the end of next year.

The Communist Party, which has enjoyed a political monopoly for four decades, is also under threat from alternative ideologies.

In Slovenia, where the political climate is most liberal and the challenge to the party most open, an alternative political party is about to be set up.

Black clashes leave 35 dead

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Gunmen armed with an AK47 semi-automatic rifle burst into a house in Soweto, the huge black township outside Johannesburg, spraying it with bullets, and killing four men and wounding two other people, South African police reported yesterday.

At least 35 people were murdered during a violent Christmas in Soweto, in townships in the Vaal triangle south of Johannesburg, and on the West Witwatersrand, the police said. There were seven attempted murders and 40 rape cases reported.

Soweto, covering 40 square miles and home at a conser-

vative estimate to 1.25 million people, accounted for 26 of the murders. One was a man, aged 63, robbed of £375 by gunmen who burst into his room in a bachelor hostel for workers recruited from distant Bantustans — the nominally independent black homelands — and shot him dead as they left.

A black police constable was one of the four men shot dead in the AK47 attack. The Soviet-designed weapon is supplied to insurgents of the outlawed African National Congress, but the police refused to say yesterday if they believed it had been an ANC attack. Previously, they have

stated that not all AK47 shootings are the work of the ANC, and that criminals also have access to the weapons.

The murders of three men in the Natal townships were also reported yesterday, bringing the area total since Christmas Eve to at least 16. Police said that most of the deaths resulted from clashes between opposing black groups.

Landmine deaths: Two civilians, a man and a woman, were killed and another seriously injured when their vehicle struck a landmine near Oshikati in northern Namibia close to the Angolan border on Christmas Eve.

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Rebel block



led King

Suspect role in

Rebel blockade cripples Kabul

From Edward Gorman
Kabul

The key to the survival of the communist regime following the completion of the Soviet troop withdrawal in February is likely to be its ability to withstand an increasingly effective economic blockade imposed by the resistance.

All over the city on a bitterly cold winter's day yesterday, the most obvious signs of the stranglehold that the Mujahidin now enjoy over Kabul were long queues of up to 200 cars at petrol stations for fuel and for paraffin for cooking.

Residents report shortages of basic foodstuffs such as bread and there have been marked increases in the prices of sugar, tea and vegetables, none of which are pegged by government legislation. A government official admitted: "Most of the internal traders cannot bring these materials here because the opposition will attack them and burn their trucks."

The main reason for the shortages is the blockade of two arterial highways on which the city's survival has always depended. To the east, guerrillas under Commander Anwar of the fundamentalist Jamiat-i Islami faction have stepped up attacks on the Jalalabad road into Pakistan since the late summer. On several occasions they have succeeded in blocking the road for periods of up to 10 days.

To the north, the vital Salang highway into the Soviet Union, along which almost all of Kabul's fuel is transported, has also been subject to regular attack and blockade by guerrillas under Commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, also of Jamiat.

An indication of the seriousness with which the regime is taking the threat came on Monday night when government radio broadcast a message to Commander Massoud, warning him that unless his attacks on the Salang ceased immediately, renewed military operations would be launched against him.

Bad as the situation already is, most Western observers here believe it can only get worse once the Soviet troops have left. On the Salang in particular, security — currently the job of Soviet troops — is expected to deteriorate dramatically once the unreliable Afghan Army takes over in February.

"The major challenge in the period of the Soviet withdrawal and after, will be the question of fuel supply," said a Western diplomat. "The Soviets have signed a protocol for 1989 under which diesel



An Afghan girl, wearing a sign reading "Liberty or Death" and holding a poster depicting a soldier being shot, singing an anti-Soviet song in Islamabad yesterday. She was part of a protest marking the ninth anniversary of the Soviet intervention.

and kerosene (paraffin) will be supplied, but the question is whether or not the Afghans will be able to provide sufficient security to get it here."

He believes that the Mujahidin will be able to starve the city into submission in the new year. "The regime will have to abdicate power, because they won't be able to keep the city alive," he said.

While the Soviet Union has yet to announce the date for the beginning of the final withdrawal, there are signs of preparations despite politically motivated warnings that it may yet be delayed. Civilian

specialists based here are now estimated at around 100, down from a suggested 2,500 earlier in the year. The numbers of military advisers are also rapidly decreasing and staffing levels at the Soviet Embassy are expected to be reduced significantly next month.

The most likely starting date for renewed movement by the remaining 50,000 troops out of the country, according to Western analysts is mid-January.

● MOSCOW: Rebel rockets hit Kabul yesterday, killing one person and injuring five (Reuters reports). Tass said

that six rockets had exploded in residential districts of the city but gave no other details of the attack, which occurred on the ninth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The last guerrilla shelling of Kabul reported by the official Soviet news agency was on the airport on November 13, when 10 Soviet soldiers were killed as they prepared to fly home.

A car bomb planted by rebels exploded on December 10 in the centre of Kabul, injuring dozens of people, and rocket attacks have continued in other parts of the country.



Exiled King rejects peace talks

By Hazhir Teimourian

The exiled King of Afghanistan has been urged by the Russians to open talks with the Kabul regime. But, according to his staff, he has rejected the idea out of hand.

When Mr Yuli Vorontsov, the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister and Ambassador to Afghanistan, met the former King in Rome last week he urged him to hold talks with the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, with a view to establishing a broadly based coalition government. But the King refused, saying that any Afghan personality who participated in such talks would destroy his standing in the eyes of Afghans.

King Zahir Shah told visitors who have crowded to his retirement home since Mr Vorontsov's meeting that although he was reluctant to become involved in politics again at the age of 74, he felt he had no choice, particularly in

view of his previous announcements that he would do all in his power to restore peace to Afghanistan if the nation wanted him to be involved.

The Vorontsov approach — the first publicized contact with the Soviet Union since the Russian invasion in 1979 — is, however, regarded by both sides as merely the opening gambit in the talks which are to continue.

The King is being pushed by moderate guerrilla leaders to investigate the possibility of a coalition government with elements close to the Kabul regime, including the Afghan Army, some of whose elite units are determined to fight on to prevent the fundamentalist wing of the guerrillas from establishing control over the capital.

The guerrilla leaders who are keen to ensure the return of the King are Pir Ahmad Gailani, Professor Sibghatullah Mujahidi and Maulavi Mohammad Nahi Mohammadi, three of the seven major

leaders based in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

In Islamabad on Monday, Pir Gailani, who had just returned from meetings with the King, strongly dissociated himself from an earlier statement by the fundamentalist leaders who had denounced the King's negotiations with Mr Vorontsov as a Soviet attempt to widen divisions within the Mujahidin.

"The truth is," said a spokesman for Pir Gailani's National Islamic Front, "that we the Mujahidin are already deeply divided among ourselves. We need to be united around a figure who is acceptable to the bulk of the Afghan people and his majesty is the only such figure we have."

Much is thought to depend on the US and the Pakistani Army. If they channel their support to the fundamentalists, the prospects of an orderly transfer of power in Kabul to the moderates will probably be irreparably damaged.

Murder of Brazil ecologist

Suspect surrenders over his role in death of Mendes

From Mac Margolis, Rio de Janeiro

Police in the regional capital of Rio Branco in north-west Brazil are holding a young man who has confessed to his role in the murder of Senhor Francisco Mendes Filho, the celebrated Amazonian environmentalist and labour leader.

Senhor Mendes, aged 44, was shot by professional gunmen outside his home last Thursday night. Authorities reported that on Monday afternoon Senhor Darci Alves Pereira, aged 21, gave himself up to state police in Xapuri, the small town in Acre state where Senhor Mendes lived.

However, indications are that Senhor Pereira is not the chief suspect. Police yesterday continued searching for his father, Senhor Darci Alves, and uncle, Senhor Alvarinho Alves, two rich local ranchers and sworn enemies of Senhor Mendes.

In the weeks before his violent death — by a shotgun blast at point-blank range — Senhor Mendes, president of the Xapuri Rural Workers' Union, was the target of repeated death threats.

Recently "Chico" Mendes, as he was widely known, publicly accused the Alves brothers of having placed him at the top of a death list. The federal police were assigned to guard the union leader constantly.

Police immediately flew Senhor Pereira to a jail in Rio

Branco, some 170 miles north of Xapuri, reportedly for fear that he would be lynched by angry residents of the town.

Xapuri has been in "a state of shock" after Senhor Mendes's murder, according to Senhor Silvio Martinello, editor of the Acre newspaper *A Gazeta*.

Ecologists and labour leaders, who have been gathering in Acre since the weekend, angrily demanded swift action by federal police, who dispatched agents to conduct an investigation in the region. The well-known television ac-

Santiago (AFP) — Senhor Luis Gelpi, aged 46, a Brazilian civil engineer who developed appendicitis on King George Island in Antarctica, was recovering after surgery performed by two Russians, a Chilean and a Uruguayan.

ress, Senhora Lucelia Santos, handed Senhor Romeu Tuma, the federal police chief, a petition blaming the murder on negligence of state and local police, and demanding the dismissal of Senhor Mauro Sposito, the federal police regional superintendent.

On December 9, in one of his last public statements, Senhor Mendes said Superintendent Sposito had ignored his alert that the Alves brothers were wanted for a string of crimes in the southern state of Parana and that the fugitive ranchers had issued several

death threats to local labour activists.

"The brothers have ordered the assassination of more than 30 workers," he told the *Jornal do Brasil*.

Senhor Mendes won international acclaim for his work to preserve the Amazon rain forest, which are particularly threatened by expanding cattle ranches.

He had sought to block deforestation by pressuring Brazil's international creditors, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, who have funded road-building into Acre.

He also fought forest clearance through petitions in the Brazilian courts and by acts of civil disobedience. He repeatedly claimed that "less than 50 hectares (125 acres) of Acre forests" were cut down last year.

He won international recognition for his efforts, culminating in an ecology prize by the United Nations in 1987, but also the fierce opposition of land barons.

Until the 1970s, Xapuri, where Senhor Mendes lived and worked, was a bucolic town surrounded by high forests that sustained hundreds of rubber tappers and Brazil nut gatherers.

The region's isolation ended, however, when ranchers began to move into the area, clearing vast stretches of forest for pasture.

Cabinet reshuffle in Tokyo

Takeshita picks team untainted by scandal

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Japanese Prime Minister — buoyed by his weekend victory in passing some key tax reforms that had become a test of his political fortunes — yesterday brought 15 new faces into his 20-strong Cabinet. It was his first reshuffle since taking over from Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone 14 months ago.

His success in pushing through the first big tax overhaul for four decades in the face of political uncertainty created by Emperor Hirohito's fading health, an explosive share scandal that has sinned many of his ministers, and a public rebellion against the first sales tax, has strengthened his hand.

But Mr Takeshita has gone out of his way to rebuild his Administration's sinking popularity in the polls by forming a Cabinet less tainted by the Recruit Cosmos share scandal, which forced him to sacrifice his Finance Minister, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, this month.

Many MPs and civil servants made fat profits after being offered cheap shares in Recruit Cosmos, an ambitious property company. But the scale of the influence-peddling has shocked even the Japanese, who have few delusions about how their parliamentarians make ends meet.

Mr Tatsuo Murayama, named last Saturday as Mr Miyazawa's replacement, will probably be the most noticeable change to Japan's international face. He is a tax expert and has handled the finance portfolio before, in the late 1970s.

But Mr Murayama lacks his predecessor's intellect, reputation and fluent command of English, which could affect the

ease with which Tokyo talks to Washington and London on the fine-tuning of international financial markets.

The Prime Minister, while tightening his grip on the Cabinet, has stopped short of disrupting the balance between the different political factions of the ruling Liberal Democrats, a complexion that was largely dictated by Mr Nakasone. That mix might change after another reshuffle next summer, when Mr Takeshita, famed for his sly backroom manoeuvring, will be preparing for his party's autumn leadership elections.

Other key Cabinet members have not been changed. Mr Sosuke Uno, keen to promote Japan's diplomatic profile, remains Foreign Minister, while Mr Keizo Obuchi, one of the Prime Minister's top aides and a man careful with his phrases when briefing journalists, will continue as Chief Cabinet Secretary.

Mr Kichiro Tazawa, still struggling to restore confidence in Japan's Self-Defence Forces after a controversial collision between a submarine and a fishing boat killed 30 people last July, will stay as Defence Minister.

Senior party executives will also stay in their posts, including Mr Shintaro Abe, the secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party, and Mr Michio Watanabe, the chairman of its influential Policy Affairs Research Council.

With Mr Miyazawa now under a cloud because of his links to the Recruit affair, Mr Abe and Mr Watanabe are leading rivals for Mr Takeshita's job. Mr Takeshita knows that if they have each other to snipe at, they will have less time and energy to

pick at him. Mr Hiroshi Mitsuoka, a close friend of the Prime Minister, has been rewarded for his behind-the-scenes persuasion of opposition MPs during the difficult passage of the tax Bills with the trade and industry portfolio.

Another new face which will become familiar to US and European officials is that of Mr Tsutomu Hata, named Agriculture Minister in the reshuffle at a time when farm trade and food subsidies have become sore subjects in international trade talks. Mr Hata,



Mr Tatsuo Murayama at a Tokyo briefing yesterday.

also a close friend of Mr Takeshita, is well-known in Washington as a tough negotiator on agricultural issues.

He is famous for leaving Americans guessing about his arrogance or sense of humour when he told US politicians that Japan could not eat more imported beef because Japanese intestines were longer than American ones.

● Fishing deal: Two Japanese fishing firms have signed deals with Burma, despite Tokyo's ban on economic aid and its refusal to recognize the military junta, company officials and the Foreign Ministry said (AFP reports).

Taiyo Fishery, the second-largest Japanese fishing company, has agreed with the military Government in Rangoon to begin a trial shrimp fishing operation off Burma, the firm said. It was the first big Japanese business deal with Burma since General Saw Maung seized power in a coup on September 18, ending two months of protests.

Key members of the reshuffled Japanese Cabinet are:	
Prime Minister	Mr Noboru Takeshita
Justice	Mr Takashi Hasegawa
Foreign Affairs	Mr Sosuke Uno
Finance	Mr Tatsuo Murayama
Defence	Mr Kichiro Tazawa
Health and Welfare	Mr Junichiro Koizumi
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Mr Tsutomu Hata
Education	Mr Takeo Nishioaka
International Trade and Industry	Mr Hiroshi Mitsuoka
Transport	Mr Shingo Sato
Posts and Telecommunications	Mr Seichi Katsuka
Labour	Mr Hyosuke Niwa
Construction	Mr Hikosaburo Okonogi
Home Affairs	Mr Shigenobu Sakano
Chief Cabinet Secretary	Mr Keizo Obuchi

Gonzalez subject of court writ

Madrid — The judge hearing the case of two police officials suspected of organizing the assassinations of Basque terrorists rejected a petition to call the Prime Minister, Senor Felipe Gonzalez, as a witness. Instead, he issued a writ reminding the Prime Minister of his obligation to divulge knowledge of criminal acts.

Thief pays up

Naples (Reuters) — A thief who stole food and cigarettes from US forces in Italy during the Second World War has made an anonymous repayment of 10,000 lire (£4.50p).

India curfews

Hyderabad (Reuters) — Curfews were imposed in 20 southern Indian towns after 25 deaths in riots.

Crew rescued

Canberra (Reuters) — All 39 crew were rescued from the Cypriot tanker Boni 300 miles south-east of Sri Lanka after fire broke out.

Duarte tests

San Salvador (AFP) — President Duarte, under treatment for terminal liver cancer, left for the US for further tests.

Skull offence

Peking (Reuters) — China has disciplined two officials for failing to protect from pollution the site where the skull of the "Peking man" was found.

Snow chaos

Ankara (Reuters) — Snow isolated around 1,000 villages in eastern and central Turkey.

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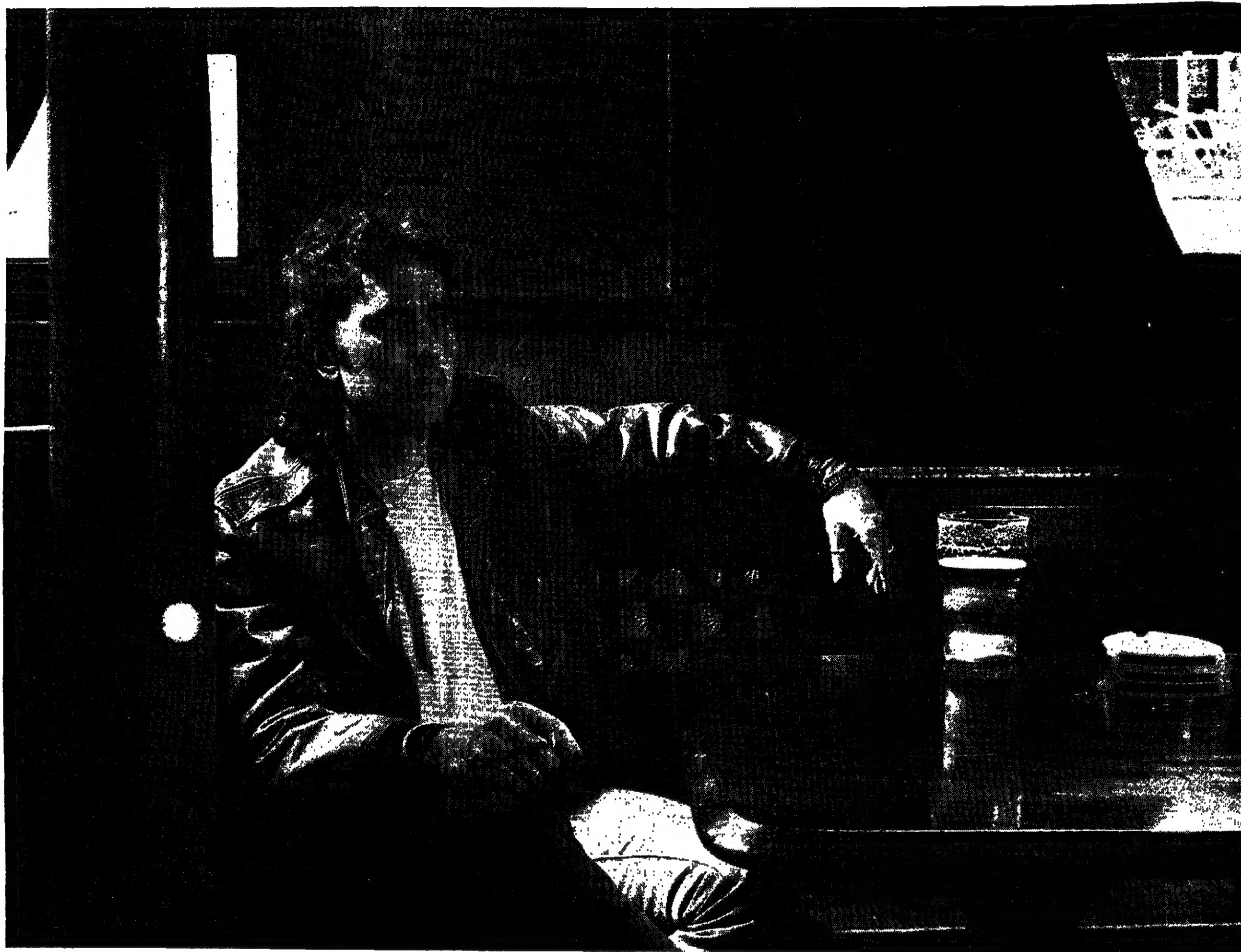
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How the giant was given its wings

It is a bit like being asked where you were when you heard that President Kennedy had been shot. Most people can remember their first sight of a jumbo jet, simply because its sheer bulk made it seem so improbable. How could such a leviathan haul itself into the air — and, having got there, stay up?

Almost 20 years after it first went into service, though, the 350-ton Boeing 747 has become the most familiar of air-borne shapes, whether carrying the space shuttle on its back into the upper atmosphere or ferrying holiday-makers on packages to Disneyland. In two decades of production, more than 700 examples have been delivered to airlines around the world; all but 20 are in regular service. Between them, they have carried more than 800 million passengers.

The story of the aircraft which was to transform the way the world flies began in December 1965, at a meeting between two of the most powerful men in aviation. William Allen, president of Boeing, and Juan Trippé, president of Pan American World Airways, both knew that the old way of carrying passengers around the world — in comparatively small aircraft with hardly more than 100 seats — had to change to meet the boom in air travel which was bringing a 15 per cent increase in passengers every year.

If Pan Am, by far the world's most influential airline, ordered enough of the giant new jet which

was still considered a viable option, a way of hinging the nose so that cargo containers could be loaded straight in had to be found. The only way, the designers concluded, was to place the cockpit area behind and above the hinge of that forward door.

The cost of each of these aircraft, in its initial guise, was a staggering \$20 million. But when Pan Am's order for 25 was formalized in April 1966, other airlines quickly realized they would have to follow suit if they were to remain in competition. In 1966 alone, 85 747s were ordered from such leading carriers as Lufthansa, Japan Airlines, Air France, Continental, American, Northwest, United and, of course, BOAC.

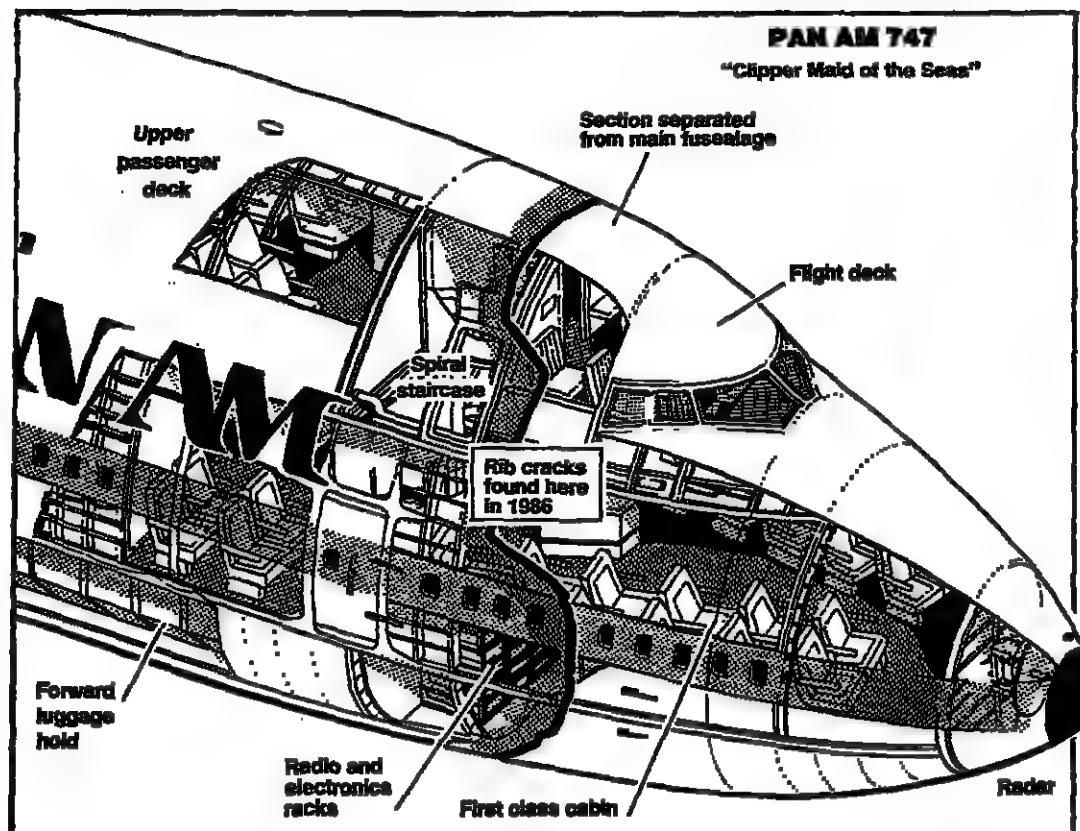
The sheer scale of the task of building the world's largest jet in such huge numbers meant a complete reorganization of Boeing's Seattle plant. There are more than 4,500,000 parts in a Boeing 747, each one of which must be rigorously checked for strength and structural integrity. The electrical wiring alone is 135 miles long. The world had to be involved in providing those individual components, which meant signing contracts with 1,500 prime suppliers and 15,000 secondary suppliers in 49 American states and six countries world-wide.

To put all these together in the existing Boeing plant was impossible, so a new factory was built from scratch on a 78-acre site alongside an airport 30 miles north of Seattle. To get the parts to the site, a special rail spur was built. The assembly work was carried out in a factory of 200 million cubic feet — the largest building in the world by volume.

Boeing's plan was to have nearly a hundred 747s in service by the end of 1970 — a programme which many thought too ambitious. But on September 30, 1968, one day ahead of schedule, the first 747, carrying the Boeing number RA001, rolled out of the plant.

It flew for the first time on February 9, 1969, lifting easily off the runway at 164 miles an hour, just as the computers and mathematical calculations had predicted. Despite its vast size — 231ft 10in long, with a wing span of 195ft 8in and a take-off weight of up to 735,000lb — it handled as easily as a sports car, allowing the pilots to

As the world's airlines and aircraft manufacturers — and their passengers — await the results of the tests on the suitcase and other items taken from the crashed Pan Am jet at Lockerbie, there is a realization that advanced technology permits operators to prolong the active life of the average passenger plane. But behind the success story of the Boeing 747, Harvey Elliott writes, now lurks the threat of a previously unsuspected structural defect, the long-term consequences of which could be disastrous



control it with only two fingers. The first five aircraft built became test vehicles to satisfy the Federal Aviation Administration's stringent safety checks and procedures. During the next 11 months, those aircraft flew more than 1,400 miles in safety checks, at a cost of \$28 million. Two of the airframes were tested on the

ground to destruction. One was subjected to repeated simulated flights to compress years of operation into a few months. The other was subjected to stresses far in excess of those it would have experienced in regular airline operations. The very size of the aircraft meant that there was spare room to carry safety to new levels

of sophistication. Every system could be provided with not just one but two back-ups. The aircraft was awarded its certificate of airworthiness on December 30, 1969; three weeks later, Pan Am put its first 747-100 in service on a flight from New York to London. The aircraft that crashed at Lockerbie, christened "Clipper

Maid of the Skies" by Pan Am, was the fifteenth to roll off the production line, which was now getting into full gear. Even before the end of that first year the first variant, the 747-200B, had been introduced. In the years following, a total of 13 different models were sold, including all-freight versions, a "convertible" which could quickly be changed to carry all freight or all passengers, and a "combi" which could carry a combination of both freight and passengers. A special short-range version capable of carrying 530 passengers has been built for Japan Airlines. In March 1983, the 747-300 was delivered with a stretched upper deck which was 23ft longer than previous 747s, allowing airlines to add as many as 44 economy seats to the upper deck. Fourteen 747s have been bought by governments, mostly for use as highly sophisticated military command posts, while kings and princes have bought custom-built 747s to use as personal jets, while two are being built for the use of the President of the United States.

The giant has a reputation for being able to ride even the most turbulent air, and there are many examples of its tremendous strength enabling pilots to pull out of the kind of weather or structural problems which would have smashed smaller, lighter aircraft. The Seventies movie *Airport* acted as a sort of testimonial to its qualities, built around the fictional story of an air stewardess managing the safe landing of a 747 which had been badly damaged in a collision with a light plane.

Although it is about to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of its maiden flight, the 747 will appear in yet another version early next year. Bigger still, with a much longer range and designed to be flown by a crew of two rather than three, the 747-400 will rely on a basic structure almost identical to that of the first prototype.

The first hint of a problem in the structure of the aircraft came in 1978, when a service bulletin was issued asking operators to inspect floor beams for cracks. The survey revealed four airlines with floor beam cracks, the longest six inches in length.

In December 1984, another service bulletin was issued to cover inspection of the aircraft

nose section after cracks had been found on three 747s with over 12,400 flights. In June 1985 further cracks were found on rivet holes on an inboard engine pylon on an aircraft which had logged 34,144 hours and made 8,200 landings.

Then, in February 1986, the Civil Aviation Authority, following *an American action*, ordered all internal structures around the nose cone of older Boeing 747s to be inspected. It discovered that more than 100 of the 140 aircraft in this category also had cracks.

The CAA said at the time that there was "no justification for withdrawing the aircraft from service". But the authorities on both sides of the Atlantic were concerned about the growing number of cracks reported in aircraft which had had more than 10,000 flights, and ruled that visual inspections or X-ray techniques had to be instituted immediately.

The areas of concern were known as Section 41 — between the main floor and the windows forwards of the front door, above the luggage bins over the first seat row and in the region of the escape hatch in the roof of the upper deck behind the flight deck. Repairs took up to four days for each aircraft and it was claimed that the problem had been, if not overcome, at least contained.

Cracks are not unusual in aircraft, particularly those which have been in use for many years. As the cabin is pressurized and

The fear is that it might have developed some defect no one had bargained for

depressurized the structure is stressed repeatedly, exacerbated by the constant hammering made by landing gear and turbulence. But Boeing claims that enough is now known about the way metal reacts over a long period of stress to be able to judge when it is likely to fail.

Every spar and rib, for example, is given added protection with a strip of metal inserted between it and the outer skin, known as a "stopper". A crack cannot extend beyond that piece of metal; even if it did, the fuselage is built so strongly that the aircraft can withstand a hole 20ft by 10ft in its side and still fly.

But airlines round the world are now using the workhorse 747 for longer and longer. The Pan Am jumbo which crashed, for example, was built in 1969 and was thought to be as serviceable now as it was when it was rolled out.

To cope with the increase in aircraft longevity, airlines have developed regular maintenance schedules in which every susceptible part is subjected to minute inspection, both visually and using the latest ultra-sound techniques, at least once a year and, in areas where stress is known to build up, far more often.

Aircraft engineers are far more aware of the problems of metal fatigue than they were in the days when the De Havilland Comet began falling out of the sky. They remain confident that their routines are now so well ordered that any problems will be picked up and corrected immediately. In fact, almost every part of a 747 flying today which has been in service for 10 years or more is almost certain to have been changed at some time.

The fear now is that if the Pan Am jumbo was not after all the victim of a bomb, it may just have developed some kind of defect which no one bargained for. If that is found to be the case, the implications are very profound. Airlines which have been enjoying phenomenal growth in demand are terrified that the vast investment they have made in new aircraft could also be put at risk by scares over the safety of air travel. They, and the men in Seattle who first put the 747 into the skies, are awaiting the report from the Royal Armaments Research and Development Establishment at Fort Halstead, in Kent, very anxiously indeed.

Charles Bremner

AT THE HEART OF THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PLANEMAKER. THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY TOO MUCH SUCCESS

Too much success lies at the heart of the recent troubles of Boeing, the 72-year-old company which has built more than half the world's current fleet of commercial jets. Airlines customers, including British Airways, have recently accused the company of shoddy workmanship.

In the past year, airlines have ordered 634 Boeing jets worth \$30 billion from four families of plane — the twin-engine 737 workhorse, the 747 jumbo, and the 757 and 767 high-technology medium to long-range aircraft.

But it has been a poor year for Boeing's public reputation. Well before the Lockerbie disaster, questions were being asked about the safety of the increasingly elderly fleet of Boeing jets operated by airlines in the United States. In April the Federal Aviation Administration ordered extensive inspections on older 737s after the spectacular incident in which a huge section of fuselage exploded off an old model owned by Aloha Airlines of Hawaii.

Last week the FAA said it was about to order extensive checks on older airliners and on Boeing Day the issue hit the headlines again when a hole a foot square opened up in the body of a 727 of Eastern Airlines as it cruised at 31,000ft over Virginia. The pilot landed safely, though several passengers were injured.

Many aviation experts say Boeing is no more to blame than any other manufacturer for problems suffered by ageing jets. Its name is prominent because it made 4,700 airliners now in service. The company insists that it has dealt with problems that caused its worst maintenance failure. That was the collapse of a bulkhead which caused a Japan Airlines 747 to crash in 1985, killing 520 people on board. Boeing says its planes

will have an "indefinite" life if properly maintained. The Hawaiian airline ignored recommendations from Boeing for repairs to the plane which ruptured in flight.

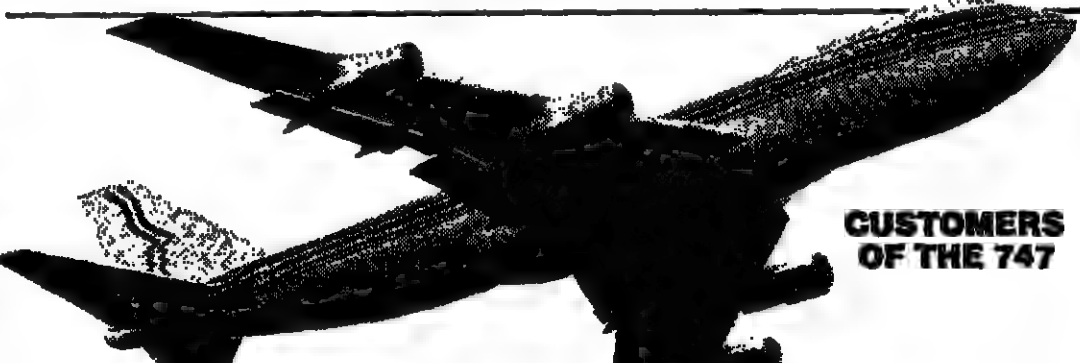
But more directly damaging for the company name was embarrassing criticism early this year from three of Boeing's best customers — British Airways, Japan Airlines and American Airlines. Last spring, Susumu Yamaji, the president of JAL, sent a letter of complaint to Boeing after a series of problems with its 747s

and 767s that included a fuel tank on a 747-200 jumbo and temperature gauges wired to the wrong engines on other 747 models.

British Airways' complaint, made public much to Boeing's chagrin, came from D.E. Craig, chief engineer for technical and quality services. He said training was a major concern among the airline's inspectors monitoring the construction of airliners at the Boeing factory. They had found defects "that underscore our fears that the underlying reasons for the

Boeing company's poor quality record are that the production workforce are, in general, inadequately trained, possess a low level of basic working skills and... seem oblivious that they are building aircraft where any mistake... represents a direct compromise with safety." Craig said that one problem uncovered on a 747 "left no doubt that the integrity of the aircraft structure had been compromised".

Boeing said it was taking steps to repair the failings. "We are



CUSTOMERS OF THE 747

747-100/-200/-300		747-400	
Aer Lingus	2	Continental	4
Aero Argentina	2	CP Air	4
Air Afrique	1	Delta	5
Air Canada	1	EI Air	7
Air France	34	Eastern	4
Air Gabon	1	Egyptair	2
Air India	13	Flying Tigers	4
Air Madagascar	1	Garda	6
Air New Zealand	1	Heria	3
Alla	5	ILFC	3
Alitalia	17	Iran Air	7
All Nippon	34	Iraqi Air Force	4
American	18	Israel	1
Avianca	1	JAA	4
Brant	1	JAL	64
British Airways	57	KLM	20
CAAC	7	Korean	13
Cameroon	1	Kuwait	4
Cathay Pacific	14	Lufthansa	30
Cargo Lux	1	Martinair	2
China Airlines	2	Malaysia	1
Condor	2	Mede East	3
		National	2
		Northwest	37
		Olympic	2
		Pan Am	46
		Philippine	4
		Pakistan	2
		Qantas	30
		Royal Air Maroc	1
		Sabena	2
		SAS	8
		Saudi Government	2
		Saudia	20
		Seaboard	6
		Singapore	15
		South African	18
		Swire	7
		Syrian Arab	2
		Tap Air Portugal	4
		Thai	8
		Transamerica	3
		TWA	18
		United	20
		UTA	6
		US Air Force	98
		UTA	7
		Varig	5
		Wardair Canada	3
		World	3
		TOTAL	715

Spreading some oil on the pitch

"Many think we're a stuffy old club of fuddy-duddies. We want to let the world know we are moving with the times." Thus Lt-Col John Stephenson, the secretary of the MCC, announced the club's decision to enlist the services of a public relations company.

It is widely believed that the warm and soggy embrace of a public relations company is the answer to the prayers of all in trouble. Those who should be stuffy enough to know better fall over backwards at the slapping, shiny tones of public relations "experts", with their insinuating mixture of instant first names and synthetic chumminess, of crude, often misinformed flattery and unctuous overstatement, of pishness and unashamed flattery. Though the PR man has, over the

years, attempted to up his status from the level of hired charlatan to "professional consultant" by means of inventing a mock-technical language for himself, full of "concepts" and "packages", he is still an essentially hollow being whose only skill, like that of the creature in the science fiction movie *Alien*, lies in speedily extending his empire within any organization that first admits him.

It seems more than likely that within the next few years the MCC will be urged to exchange its hopelessly fuddy-duddy on-site PRs, adept at putting over a warmer, friendlier image to the viewing public. In future, no batsman will be declared out. Instead, the PR empire, energetically smiling, will say: "Graham,

dear, that innings really knocked me sideways. There were some truly incredible things in it. Really great. We were all very, very excited by it. By the way, how're the kids? Great. Terrific. And the lovely lady in your life? Super. Splendid. Brilliant. As I say, smashing innings. So amazing, in fact, that I think it might be better in terms of the long-term concept of the game if you were to be seen to walk back to the pavilion now. Lovely, lovely. Oh, and don't forget the bat. And, Graham, do let's have lunch soon!"

In 10 years' time, I predict that an exasperated Lt-Col



CRAIG BROWN

As further details emerge about Field Marshal Montgomery's meetings with Chairman Mao in the early Sixties, it is worth recalling Montgomery's most vivid impression of the character of the Chinese leader. "He has a great sense of humour," he wrote. The British have long been

unnaturally keen on a sense of humour, excusing even genocide if performed with a chuckle and a ready smile. In the decades that have passed since Monty enjoyed a giggle with Mao, the parodying of the be-all and end-all of British life. Now, even newscasters, members of the Royal family and clergymen, all of whom were in times past the embodiment of solemnity, are over-ridingly anxious to show that they, too, are a gaggle of ha-ha-ing hooters, beginning and ending their every public utterance with a merry smile, a quip and a pun.

Those who watched Dame Edna Everage with her "all star" audience on Sunday night will have witnessed the desperation of the famous to show that they, too, have a

sense of humour, no matter how deep the humiliation they are forced to undergo in order to prove it. Even Sir Yehudi Menuhin found it necessary to put on his cheeriest grin while Dame Edna taunted him about his age, all so that the world could see that he was not just a silly old musician, but that — far more important — he was also game for a laugh.

Will the Pope kick off his next Christmas message with a knock-knock joke? Will surgeons take to wearing specs-nose-and-moustache novelty masks while performing open-heart surgery? Will judges stick wacky antennae on springs to their wigs before giving the defendant three guesses as to the length of his sentence? Is there no end to jokes?

Charles Bremner

SALE STARTS TUESDAY 27th



OFFER AVAILABLE WITH POCKET SPRUNG DEEP MATTRESS
FREE SOFA WITH DOUBLE SOFA BED

EARLY BIRD OFFERS:

1 x double sofa sleeps £28.00 down from £799 — 1 ONLY
1 x double sofa sleeps £48.00 down from £1099 — 1 ONLY
100 double sofa beds down from £599 to £299

120 Marylebone Lane W1

64 Edgware Rd (Nr Marble Arch)

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Sofa Sleepa's

By Martin Barnett of Parkside Street

*This offer is repeated on Tuesday 27 Wednesday & Thursday. All goods subject to availability. First come first served.

TIMES DIARY

LORD ST JOHN
OF FAWLEY

When the frenzied rush and commercial distractions of Christmas are over, and the friends and relations, however beloved, are gratefully departed, one can enjoy a little peace and look at the garden once again. Some people say that a garden in December is depressing, but they are in error: the delight of a winter garden can be as great as the abundance of summer or of spring. Certainly one of them is colour, made all the more brilliant by the background of bare branches or of evergreen.

Can there be anything more cheering and bright than holly berries, which mercifully until now the birds, presumably because of the mild weather, have largely left untouched? They are matched by the scarlet fruit of the pyracantha, again especially abundant this year. I have never seen the winter jasmine so prolific and its yellow primrose-like flowers glow in the sun. A more subtle treat is afforded by the clusters of little white bells of *Arbutus Andrachnoides*, or strawberry tree, and the scent (I refuse to say perfume and the dreaded word fragrance, a modern affliction, will never pass these lips) of the racemes of tiny daisy-like flowers of *Makonia Bealii*.

I do not even have to leave the house to enjoy the first splashes of pink of *Rhododendron Handsworthii* Scarlet, which I can see from my study window, and over in the churchyard the outside snowdrops (probably *Nivalis Atkinsii*) are already fully grown. A bonus this year is the deep yellow of the *Fremodendron Californicum*, which started flowering in spring and amazingly is still at it.

Keats put autumn on the map. Cannot the same be done for winter?

Another joy of this period of the year is that there is a chance to read something other than official papers, the dreary stream of which has temporarily ceased to flow. A kind friend has given me Terrell's *Moore's* life of our greatest composer, Edward Elgar, which has the same psychological insight and massive scholarship as Richard Ellmann's recent life of Oscar Wilde. I am also enjoying the completion of Asa Briggs's great trilogy, *Victorian Things*.

One of the more agreeable of Victorian creations was the snow white Parian which, from the 1840s onwards, began to supersede the more garish Staffordshire as the country moved up market. Pugin used it and virtually all the members of the then royal family and every 19th century statesman of note have been embelmed in it forever. Parian united Gladstone and Disraeli in ecumenical harmony. Disraeli and Lord Salisbury were also picked in pottery, depicted against an arch, and described as "the Keystone of the Kingdom."

BARRY FANTONI



"Neville chase the turkey this year - he brought home Crocodile Dundee II on video"

The post-Christmas break also allows a little browsing among ancient and too long neglected tomes. I am immersed at the moment in Cheiro's *Book of Numbers*, left to me by an aunt. Does anyone now remember or read Cheiro, the most celebrated clairvoyant of his day? He devoted more zeal to the study of numbers than virtually anyone since Pythagoras, and erected a whole structure of character analysis and prophecy built on the nine basic numbers. Every number after nine is but a combination of its predecessors: you find your number by looking at the day of the month on which you were born and adding, where necessary, accordingly. Nine is a unique number in calculation in that, multiplied by any number, it always reproduces itself.

Cheiro masked the identity of Count Louis Hamon who, for more than 50 years, read the palms of the great. One of his earlier successes was that with a stranger he encountered in a railway carriage, and noting from his hand that the line of destiny was broken by the heart line, Cheiro predicted that his career would be terminated by a woman. The stranger laughed and, handing over his card, remarked: "A man with my life has no time for women." The name on the card was Charles Stewart Parnell.

Just as remarkable, and distinctly more verifiable, was his prophecy about the Duke of Windsor, made when the latter was still Prince of Wales. In *World Predictions*, which was published in 1931, he wrote: "It is well within the range of possibility owing to the peculiar planetary influences to which he is subject, that he will in the end fall a victim of a devastating love affair. If he does, I predict that the prince will give up everything, even the chance of being crowned rather than lose the object of his affection."

The prince, who was then at the height of his popularity and lapped by popular adulation, abdicated five years later as King Edward VIII, but Cheiro did not survive to see his prescient prophecy fulfilled. He had died two months earlier. What is one to make of all this? The sceptical will dismiss it as nonsense or coincidence, but others will regard it as a glimpse of the pattern in the carpet. But my own stance, unusually, is agnostic. Perhaps our national poet got it right:

There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
Than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

David Walker sees the need for a full public debate

Charity out in the cold?

Scrooge had a point. In *A Christmas Carol*, a do-gooder comes to Marley & Scrooge soliciting a donation to the parish fund for prisoners and the poor. Scrooge doesn't just say no; he gives a reason. "I pay rates for workhouses and prisons, so why should I contribute twice by giving to charity as well?"

Maybe it takes a hard heart to be a good policy analyst, for Scrooge's question deserves an answer - not only by the charities but also by government ministers who have recently made charitable giving a key idea in their thinking about the future of social policy.

In such fields as community care for the mentally handicapped, the relief of poverty through the Social Fund, cash-strapped hospitals and even entry to higher education for poor students, charity now has a central place. Since we already pay for these things through taxation, why should we put more money into a tin?

Charity professionals have no ready answer, but certainly want the question debated. Nicholas Hinton, of the Save the Children Fund, is a keen advocate of keeping separate the spheres in

which charities and the state operate, and for a very good reason: charities and voluntary groups are desperately vulnerable to the vagaries of policy. Norman Fowler, the Employment Secretary, clicks a finger and a host of charities which had got closely involved in employment training for young people and the long-term unemployed suddenly find their grants evaporating and their own staff joining their former clients.

This is not a question that is likely to be debated when the Government publishes its white paper on charities in the New Year, either. All the signs, including some recent words on the subject from Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, are that the white paper will be confined to the strict issues of charity regulation. These are important. The register of charities is inadequate. The Charity Com-

mission needs new powers to insist on proper accounts and to ensure that public trustees do their jobs. But they do not go far. Charity specialists such as Foster Murphy of the Volunteer Centre (a Home Office training and support unit) want the Government to apply its mind to how far it really hopes to go in substituting charitable effort for municipal social services, Department of Employment initiatives, or government-to-government development aid.

During the past year speeches by senior Cabinet ministers have pricked the consciences of businessmen and newly-relieved taxpayers alike, urging them to contribute more to charity. Hurd in particular has discovered active citizenship. But how far does it go?

In housing, it seems, all the way: the voluntary sector is primed to take over lower cost

renting from councils lock, stock and barrel. In social services, less far: the Women's Royal Voluntary Service has not yet been asked to provide meals-on-wheels in place of council social services departments, though theoretically it could.

The charity world certainly has a case for a little reflection along these lines than it has heard. It matters a great deal to the charities (and to us as potential donors and volunteers) whether Barnardo's will get bigger and bigger and whether its top people will be paid more and become increasingly like executives of a multi-million pound business. It matters because while Great Ormond Street children's hospital and the Spastics Society may stand high in the popularity stakes (perhaps because they are good at publicity), other equally deserving groups are left out in the cold.

Yet the charity world does not, it turns out, want the deep thinking to go too far. During 1988 Mrs Thatcher caught wind of some charities engaging in what she called "politics"; she demanded a list of bodies which were receiving grants from Whitehall, and an inter-departmental monitoring committee was set up as a result.

Her action sent tremors through the charities, which for a while feared that the white paper might attempt a revision of the wonderful and ancient definitions of charity with which British law currently operates. (Douglas Hurd appears to have fended off any such likelihood). They especially feared Mrs Thatcher's imprimatur, proscribing, say, charities for homosexuals and certain kinds of Third World development.

A fear of partisan redefinition is well-founded. But are the

ancient definitions (a compound of Elizabethan statute, Victorian codification and subsequent judge-made revisions) adequate? Is there any intellectual principle which allows the right-wing Institute of Economic Affairs to enjoy the tax privileges of charity but not, say, the Church of Scientology?

The ancient "heads" defining charity as work for the poor, the education, religion and the benevolence of the community are extolled by some as a gloriously British baggy set of categories which the wisdom of the courts will sooner or later bend to the shape of prevailing practice. In fact they stem directly from the moral universe of a hierarchical, Christian society in which the spirit of enterprise would have been, and indeed was, considered subversive.

For better or worse, we now live in a relatively post-Christian, egalitarian society whose members are daily enjoined to be more enterprising. Quite what charity amounts to in such circumstances is an issue which the forthcoming white paper ought to address - unless we are content to let Dickens's sentimentality alone answer Scrooge's seasonal question.

Douglas Johnson

Making the most of 1789

A few weeks ago French television staged a re-enactment of Louis XVI and invited the viewers to agree or to disagree with the death sentence which was passed and enacted in 1793. Fifty five per cent voted for the king's acquittal and 17.5 per cent were in favour of him being executed. Only 27.5 per cent were in favour of the death penalty. The majority rejected the most dramatic event of the Revolution.

Nevertheless, on New Year's Day, balloons carrying letters with special commemorative stamps will be released from the principal towns of France to inaugurate the bicentenary. Each balloon will celebrate the department from which it is launched, the administrative unit of the Revolution being the creation of the Revolution.

However, it appears that some of the towns involved do not wish to celebrate 1789 at all. The Mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, is said to be rather cool in his attitude towards the bicentenary, although he has denied this and pointed to the many exhibitions, festivals and ceremonies being organized in the capital. But he admits that many Parisians wonder whether the expenditure of some £10 million in 1989 is justified.

Obviously specially commissioned works of art will remain, and the population as a whole will enjoy the open-air cinema, the fireworks and the dancing in the streets. But the supreme irony is that July 14 will not see the culmination of these popular jubiliations, because the summit conference of the seven richest countries in the world is due to meet in Paris on that date.

One symbol replaces another. The storming of the Bastille on July 14 was chosen to be France's national day by the politicians of the Third Republic because it represented the apparently spontaneous action of the French people, seeking to destroy the symbol of tyranny. The fact that the Bastille then housed only a handful of aristocratic prisoners and madmen, and that the attackers were looking for arms and ammunition rather than thinking in terms of liberation, was another story. July 14 next will become the symbol of

France as the leader of the world's most powerful and richest countries.

For decades now the catechism of the French Revolution has ceased to exist outside the universities, the lycées, some sparsely attended political meetings and the municipalities which have to organize the July 14 parades. Don't talk to French holiday-makers about Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. Fifty-five million Monsieur Hulots can't be wrong and they know that the Revolution meant the destruction of châteaux and churches, they have seen the desecrated statues and they have heard about the killing of priests and the looting of art treasures.

They can sigh over a world that was destroyed. But they do not mourn those who were also destroyed: Marat, Danton, Robespierre. After all, these men brought it upon themselves.

One of the television audience who voted in favour of the acquittal of Louis XVI described his judges as crooks. "They insisted on calling the king Monsieur Capet," he said. "But then they went on to be given aristocratic titles by Napoleon." One remembers the story of the old revolutionary who was eventually made a duke by Napoleon. "But what shall we call you now?" asked his old revolutionary comrades. "Ah, that's of no importance," he replied, modestly. "Just call me Monseigneur."

The cult of the Revolution flourished when it served a purpose. Thus in the 1880s and 1890s it was made into a support for those who were striving to establish a rational, radical parliamentary Republic. After 1917, those who thought that the Bolshevik revolution offered a hope for the future of mankind called on Robespierre as a witness for progress. The Popular Front of 1936 and the Liberation of 1944 and 1945 were other occasions when the French people could be said to have been looking for arms and ammunition rather than thinking in terms of liberation, was another story. July 14 next will become the symbol of

France as the leader of the world's most powerful and richest countries.



could be said that only the terrorist will now take moments of the French Revolution as a point of reference. No wonder that lots of its history is depicted as murderous and conspiratorial.

There are other reasons why those organizing the celebrations of the bicentenary have to walk warily. The origins and the course of the Revolution have been endlessly discussed by historians. But no consensus has emerged. Any idea of analysing these years as a struggle between classes, with aristocrat and bourgeois, artisan and peasant, playing out their roles has been dismissed as inadequate.

Even national interpretations are unacceptable, as we are told that we have to distinguish between town and country, western, northern and Provencal

France, what is Parisian and what is the world beyond Paris. In terms of history, it would seem that everything about the subject is up for grabs. This is fascinating for historians who revel in the discovery of contradictions and the unravelling of complexities. But it is hardly suited to a great national celebration.

There are two other considerations which make the Revolution difficult to stomach. First is the realization that the internal opposition to it, the Counter-Revolution, was not simply the work of aristocrats, bigoted priests and English agents, as has frequently been claimed. If the Revolution is to be recognized as the work of the ordinary people, then it has to be recognized that its opponents, in Brittany and the Vendée, were the people.

Peasants and labourers fought with courage and conviction. They were massacred by the representatives of the Parisian Revolution, and myths and legends are growing and are being manufactured concerning the numbers who were killed. It has almost become a commonplace to compare these victims to the Jews who were liquidated in the Holocaust.

The other consideration concerns French economic history. It may be simplistic but it is all the more compelling because of that. On the eve of 1789, it is argued, France and England were about equal in terms of industrial development. By 1815, when the revolutionary and Napoleonic wars were over, France was lagging behind Britain, and was not to catch up in terms of the modernization of

the economy until the 1950s. Agricultural production stagnated as the peasants became small proprietors; Napoleon's attempt to control the continental economy distorted French industrial development; the occupation of Amsterdam benefited London. One historian has concluded that, in terms of loss of life and trade, destruction, and wasted resources, the Revolution was a cruel experience.

How then can it be celebrated? Seeking to avoid what the President has described as sterile controversy, the government is concentrating on two aspects. The one is the Declaration of the Rights of Man (voted in August 1789), which is to be linked to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (the 40th anniversary of which has just been commemorated in Paris in the presence of Lech Walesa and Andrei Sakharov). The other is the idea of Europe, since the French Revolution was far from being an event confined to France, but has to be seen as a movement which affected the whole continent.

1989 is meant to be the year of the French. From July, when France assumes the presidency of the Community, President Mitterrand will be at his most active in endeavouring to create a monetary, social and cultural western Europe which is making contact with eastern Europe. France's bid for leadership will be sustained by the bicentenary.

If it is asked how one's view of the Revolution will be affected by all the activities that are being organized, there is one possible answer. A national hero might emerge. And that could be Lafayette.

He was a world figure, an aristocrat who helped the Americans to win their independence, and who supported the moderate phase of the Revolution. As a military commander he tried to protect the King and to prevent mob violence. After exile he returned to France and died in 1834, at the age of 77. He was a survivor, and survivors are popular in Mitterrand's France.

The author is Professor of French History at University College London.

Commentary • ALAN RYAN

Young hope betrayed

Returning to America twenty years after the *annus mirabilis* of 1968 has been provoking gloomy thoughts of loves lost and forsaken. "Will we ever get over the Sixties?" asked a recent *New York* cover, but I can only wonder why anyone should want to get over that wide-eyed and hopeful decade. Indeed, the only one of my 1968 allegiances that 1988 has seriously shaken is my love of New York and what used to go with it - a real dislike of Washington. After countless old musicals and endless shots of Manhattan seen from the Staten Island ferry, to spend 1988 teaching in New York was a year in heaven, like playing a bit part in *On the Town* and getting a professor's pay for it.

All the clichés were true: you could eat, drink and go to the movies at four in the morning; everyone talked loudly, simultaneously and about everything at once; and under the benign if not wholly competent rule of Mayor John Lindsay, New York was simultaneously Fun City, the Big Apple, and cultural capital of the world. Once you had changed your blood for adrenalin and got used to the speed, life was wonderful.

Washington was a city which John Kennedy had aptly described as "combining northern charm with southern efficiency", slow, boring, devoid of restaurants, book stores, cinemas, theatres, good jazz, affordable discotheques and all the other amenities of the good life. It was also the headquarters of the FBI, the CIA and, above all, the Pentagon. It was a place to be marched on and sneered at, but

hardly to enjoy. You could sneak into the National Gallery or the Smithsonian between anti-war demonstrations, but a closer acquaintance would have been in vain. All that has changed. Washington has emerged as an American Paris, while New York is more like Calcutta than ever. The change is symbolized by their public transport. The New York Subway is less filthy and less unreliable than it was, but it remains filthy, noisy, ugly and erratic; the Washington Metro is quiet, clean and quick, its stations classically calm and elegant. Above ground, New York knocked down the old Pennsylvania Station and built a commuters' slum beneath Madison Square Garden; Washington has just reopened Union Station in its pristine glory as a grand entrance to a real capital city.

Still, if geographical loyalties have faltered, the politics of 1988 make one long for the Sixties. To us ageing members of the political class of 1968, this year has been pure betrayal. George Bush ran his whole campaign as a referendum on the spirit of 1968, and it was as nasty as it was successful. Twenty years ago, George Wallace's talk of "pointy-headed liberals" was seen to be redneck extravagance; this year George junior was all too successful with the narrow-minded and the close-fisted. Twenty years ago, the hairy and the rebellious burned the American flag wherever the chance offered; Bush got himself elected by wrapping himself in it.

It's not just that "liberal" has become a dirty word. People

who are willing to call themselves conservatives actually dislike George Bush even more than avowed liberals do. The liberals console themselves that he will be ineffectual and incompetent, and do less damage than he intends, which is just what drives the conservatives wild with frustration. Not that most conservatives see themselves as such. "Moderate" is the preferred term.

To the outsider, American moderation looks like the conservatism of the Eisenhower 1950s, especially in foreign affairs, now that the chastening effects of Vietnam have worn off. What is astonishing is not so much what politicians and commentators argue for as what they take for granted. Otherwise sensible people - leader writers on the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*, for example - discuss the pros and cons of policy without for a moment doubting America's absolute right to dictate terms anywhere in the Western Hemisphere. An Englishman who recalls that the American colonies rebelled to demonstrate that large nations should not bully small ones can only boggle.

The *New Republic* used to be the voice of somewhat leftist Democrats; it leaned towards Israel in foreign politics but only mildly so given how many of its writers and readers were Jewish. It has now gone moderate, which means Reaganite: violently hostile to the Sandinista government in Nicaragua, and suspicious of any tentative moves towards peace on the West Bank. Its domestic politics remain

sceptical and good-natured; but its view of the rest of the world is anything but moderate.

For all Reagan's talk of "morning in America", he was a prince elected by a pretty middle-aged nation, and middle age is notoriously a time of betrayal. Youthful ambitions sink beneath the pressures of the mortgage, and a vague guilt seeps into life - either we were foolish when young or we have grown foolish since, and either way it's hard to look the Recording Angel in the eye. American politics has a lot of that about it today. It is selfish, narrow and ungenerous, but guiltily so.

When the liberal governments of the 1960s failed to cure all the ills of American life, too many politicians cashed in by denying that government should try to cure any of them. They know, though they don't quite know how to break it to the taxpayer, that that was a mistake; America cannot go on for ever with a health care system that produces the infant mortality of a Third World country, an education system that leaves a quarter of the population unfit for anything but menial jobs, urban neglect that leaves a coloured underclass to die of AIDS and drug abuse, and a political system which abandons argument for pap.

Though 1960s liberals underestimated the difficulty of bringing American standards of health, education and political intelligence up to Scandinavian - or even Canadian - levels, the 1990s will certainly tell us why we have to try again. The author is Professor of Politics at Princeton University.

DEC 28 ON THIS DAY 1929



At the end of the First World War the British Army had more than 700,000 horses and mules. Ten years later the Royal Army Service Corps was phasing them out, though in some operational areas horses were again used in the war of 1939-45.

A Landmark in Mechanization

The last day of 1929 will mark an important stage in the steady progress of mechanization which has been going on in the Army since the Armistice, for with the old year the last remaining horse transport service company of the Royal Army Service Corps will cease to exist. Except for the regimental wagons of those units of cavalry, artillery, infantry, and engineers which have not yet been mechanized, the military transport horse will disappear. In another column a brief outline is given of the history of the horse transport of our Army since it was first given some sort of organization in the bad old days when the wagon and its load were subject to different authorities. For the past forty-one years wagon and load, transport and supplies have been combined under the control of one corps, and now the time has come for that corps to bid a final farewell to the horses that have served it and the Army so well.

We have grown so increasingly accustomed in the last eleven years to dependence on the internal combustion engine that the number of horses and mules used for transport in the field during the War seems now almost incredible. They came from all parts of the world. Over 600,000 had been bought by the Remount Commission in Canada

and the United States. Whatever may be the future of cavalry and artillery there can be little doubt that for all practical purposes the horse is doomed to disappear before long from the first as well as from the second line transport of the Army.

The final mechanization of the Royal Army Service Corps seems an appropriate occasion for paying a last tribute to the animals which played a humble but no unimportant part in winning the War, as well as to the men who cared for them. Their duties involved more hard work than glory, and, though they were spared the worst hardships of the front line they were often less immune from danger than the "front line" men naturally supposed. Of the sixteen thousand casualties suffered by the Corps, probably by far the largest proportion were suffered by the Horse Transport branch. There need be no fear, however, that the horse will ever be forgotten in the Army. Even within the Empire there are still many parts of the world where mechanical transport, with all its modern improvements, is useless. The need remains for the officer to be trained in horsemanship as well as in horsemanship, and to that end he must be inspired to love horses. A good horsemaster can readily adapt his knowledge to the control of other animals, as was proved in Palestine and the Eastern campaigns, in which animal transport played so large a part. In order that the lessons of these campaigns may not be forgotten, and that officers may be instructed in the management of pack animals for service, it is required, in those parts of the world where mechanization of transport is impossible, a train depot will be retained at Aldershot, and here the traditions of the horse transport will be kept alive.



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THE SPLITS TO COME

In world affairs, 1988 was a time of transformations on a scale that had been wholly unpredictable. As the year ends, the shape of international relations is different.

That is not, however, the appearance of British domestic politics which seem, although only superficially, to be essentially the same now as they were 12 months ago. The year ends, as it began, with Mrs Thatcher in the ascendant and meeting no effective political opposition.

The centre is still in trouble. A year ago the alliance of the Liberal and Social Democratic parties was in utter turmoil as the majorities in both set about the painful business of merger. But the merger has left the new party of Social and Liberal Democrats faced with a competitor in Dr David Owen's "continuing SDP". The SLD has a new leader, Mr Paddy Ashdown, but no clear direction of policy.

For Labour, too, it has been a frustrating year. Mr Kinnock has tried to seize the opportunity to make it a "listening party" which harmonizes what the voters want with Labour's own wishes. He has started reviews of party policy, from defence to the economy, with the intention of adjusting Labour's strategies to the changes wrought by Mrs Thatcher's Government in society and the economy.

Officially, Labour now acknowledges the need to come to terms with market forces, and to accept ballots for the election of union officials. Mr Kinnock himself has declared Labour's unilateralist defence policy "redundant" in the light of the changes in East-West relationships.

But the compromise with reality has been gingerly and seen to be so. Labour's determination to get rid of British nuclear weapons remains, despite the hope of securing some off-setting reductions by the USSR. Mr Kinnock's revisionism on defence and other policy will continue to be resisted by the left. The challenge that he and his deputy, Mr Roy Hattersley, faced in the autumn leadership elections was a sign of this.

Mr Kinnock told his party conference that he took his easy victory as a mandate to turn Labour from a block-vote to a one-man-one-vote party, working for economic efficiency as well as social justice. But the activists' ears were plainly unresponsive. And, as the opinion polls show, voters do not trust Labour or believe that it has really changed. If there were a general election now, it is again Mrs Thatcher who would be returned to power.

This is the more remarkable in view of the persistent evidence from opinion polls that the public disses from so many of the Government's policies. The year began with attacks on the Government over NHS policy and

continued with an onslaught against the effects of changes in social benefits to concentrate help on the most needy. There was also a massive revolt of Tory MPs against the community charge, which cut the Government's normal 101 Commons majority to a mere 25, while a wrecking amendment in the Lords was defeated only by recourse to the backwoodsmen. Now there is criticism of water and electricity privatization.

The brightest spot for the Government was the continued economic recovery and a popular budget intended to make Britain a low-tax and high-incentive economy. Even if the City bubble had burst, what did that matter, provided growth and industrial expansion continued? The renewal of inflation, however, and large trade and balance of payments deficits have once again forced a sharp rise in interest rates, dimming the shine of Mr Lawson's chancellorship and casting doubts on the durability of the Government's greatest achievement, the defeat of inflation.

Yet the Conservative hegemony in potential votes remains apparently undiminished. The principal explanation is the incapacity of the Opposition.

Effective opposition generally benefits the cause of responsive government. The past year has shown the most effective criticism to come from the Conservative rank and file. Mrs Thatcher, however, has shown herself sensitive to new thinking. Her espousal of "green" concerns, for example, has turned fringe politics into the real thing. This will undoubtedly emerge strongly in the coming debates on water privatization.

For the departments of health and social security, 1988 was the year of separation. Though the Prime Minister is normally reluctant to spend time on institutional change, she could do worse, following the eggs scare of the year's end, than consider a consumers' Ministry of Food, separate from the producers' Ministry of Agriculture.

This was also the year in which Mrs Thatcher grasped the European nettle. She has seen the significance of the conflict between those who wish to preserve the national dimension within a progressively more integrated Europe, and those who wish to do away with frontiers, not only in trade terms but in all other respects as well. This could be the largest issue ahead for the Tories and possibly the most risky test of their unity.

Despite the deterioration in the state of Northern Ireland and in the British Government's relations with the Republic in 1988, it is neither of these that is likely to strain politics at home. The Community is quite another matter. It could conceivably be material for Tory fission, as Ireland once was for the old Liberal Party.

TALKING ABOUT ARMS

This year ends, and the next will begin, with more hopes for progress in arms control than at any time since the early 1970s. While there is little solid military foundation for such optimism, it has its roots in an East-West atmosphere which has discernibly warmed in 1988. The political conditions, at least, are right for constructive progress.

Nato's underlying concern, throughout most of its nearly 40-year history, has been the Warsaw Pact's superiority in conventional forces. The Soviet Union's offensive capability, enhanced by geographical advantage, has left the West with little confidence in its own front line.

Nato's strategy of flexible response to a Warsaw Pact offensive is not really very flexible at all, since the West would almost certainly have to "go nuclear" within days to halt the steady advance of enemy armour. The emasculation of this threat has been a priority target for Western governments.

Their concern led, 15 years ago last month, to the talks on mutual and balanced force reductions (MBFR) in central Europe. The Warsaw Pact's failure to provide acceptable data or to agree on a series of compromise proposals led to a long stalemate which served to give conventional arms control a bad name.

The real significance of Mr Gorbachev's unilateral troop and weapons cuts, announced with such *éclat* at the United Nations this month, lay less in the detailed figures than in his implied admission that the Russians, as Nato has been arguing for years, have more troops than they are ever likely to need.

It is equally apparent that they have more than they can reasonably afford. Mr Gorbachev, in cutting half a million off the five million total, reaps political, economic and even strategic dividends simultaneously. A leaner, better-equipped Soviet military could result. By making his move without waiting to negotiate joint reductions, he has also brought pressure to bear on Nato just as it is reluctantly preparing to modernise its forces.

It would be unrealistic to expect a swift conclusion to the new conventional stability talks (CST) which are aimed at cutting conventional forces between the Atlantic and the Urals and which should open some time in the spring. The two sides have not yet settled the terms of reference, although the negotiations could still start in February.

Nato's riposte to Mr Gorbachev spoke of reducing forces to an equal ceiling far lower than the Soviet leader had envisaged. The complexities of talks embracing so many differing definitions of weapons and troops

and requiring agreement from so many national governments make those of the MBFR talks seem minor. The Soviet Union's new doctrine of "reasonable sufficiency" remains to be explored. The arguments over verification procedures alone threaten to prolong the talks indefinitely.

But this month's events, including the generous Western response to the Armenian earthquake, have given the process a kick-start. MBFR was a *quid pro quo*, conceded by the Soviets in return for Nato's agreement to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). CST, by contrast, represents a mutual need to reduce troops which neither East nor West can easily afford.

But those hoping for results, as opposed to progress, in 1989 will have to look elsewhere—and it is hard to know where. The Conference on Disarmament talks in Geneva on chemical weapons begin each year amid fresh hope of agreeing a ban on their manufacture and stockpiling.

The use of gas in the Gulf War and by Iraqi troops against the Kurds have given the negotiations fresh urgency—as have the reports of a chemical warfare (CW) plant in Libya. Partly in response to the horrors in the Gulf, the US Congress recently slashed Pentagon funds for CW development. President-elect Bush is said to be determined to secure a treaty. But serious difficulties over verification remain.

Major-General William Burns, head of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said in London last month that agreement could be reached within twelve months in the strategic arms reduction talks (Start) between the super-powers. That sounds like wishful thinking.

Start negotiators, who are trying to work out a 50 per cent cut in strategic nuclear weapons, are due to assemble again in the New Year, after a Christmas break. But large obstacles remain, notably sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs)—which the Americans want to exclude altogether because of verification problems—and the US strategic defence initiative. Few Americans close to the Start negotiations expect a conclusion within the year.

It may be, therefore, that those who look forward to a year of uninterrupted progress towards treaties on nuclear, conventional and chemical weapons are allowing themselves to be carried away by Christmas spirit. But arms control will never succeed unless the political climate is right. The world is at least moving towards that minimum precondition.

and Purpose". We had to prepare for one of them a map, "World at War: December 1942", which variously shaded countries and territories into the main groups—United Nations (already a term in common use), Axis and Neutrals. What, then, should be the shading for Tibet?

Accept China's claim to sovereignty and Tibet should be with the United Nations. Accept Tibet's claim to independence and the shading should be that of the Neutrals. When I took the question to the middle reaches of the

Foreign Office, the judgement was firm: let the allocation be to the United Nations—at least partly on the argument that our map was more likely to be seen by the Chinese than by the Tibetan authorities.

That, I felt, did indeed illustrate the difficulties of map-making; but also, reassuringly, the pragmatism of the Foreign Office.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. MARSHALL,
Holly Cottage,
15 Beacon Road,
Woodhouse Eaves, Leicestershire.

Fair warning of terror in the air

From Mr Tony Robinson

Sir, Whatever proves to have been the cause of the Lockerbie air disaster, the authorities' failure to pass on the warning of an imminent bomb attack on Pan Am is a matter of deep concern.

President Reagan is factually and morally wrong to claim, as has been reported, that warnings would not be passed on to international air travel. The need is not for hourly bulletins of every single threat to be issued to the world at large: it is for the 200 or 300 people proposing to board a threatened flight to be given the facts known to the security services.

The Americans themselves recognised the justice of this principle, according to your report (December 23), when they informed an elite group of their own nationals serving in embassies around the world of the bomb threat to Pan Am.

If the matter is serious enough to warn people many of whom are not even prospective passengers, why not warn the people checking in for the flight and let them make up their own minds about boarding?

Yours faithfully,
TONY ROBINSON,
As from: 6 Clos du Berge,
Anderhem,
1160 Brussels, Belgium.
December 27.

Response to Arafat

From Mr Michael Sherrard, QC

Sir, In your leading article of December 23 you state: "Modern terrorists are calm killers with a well worked out theory of how to dominate democracies by power and fear. Terrorism can only be countered by vigilance and a willingness to respond in kind."

I assume, of course, that by the phrase "respond in kind" you mean "by the most effective deterrent penalties" known to and available to be administered by due process of law.

Yet there is strong reason to doubt whether your determination is shared by the international community. During the last 40 years a large number of innocent civilian victims around the world have died because of Yasser Arafat's terrorist policies. This week we have seen him being greeted by the Pope (report, December 24).

How can one reconcile the message of your leading article with this sort of international (even Holy) acceptance of the leader of the most infamous terrorist organisation ever known?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SHERRARD,
2 Crown Office Row,
Temple, EC4,
December 23.

Not so absurd

From Mr John L. Marshall, MP for Hendon South and MEP for London North (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, I must take issue with Bernard Levin's claim (December 12) that "the European Parliament is an absurdity".

Although the European Parliament was initially granted only a limited legislative role, it is perceived outside the Community as the voice of the people of Europe. Thus it has had an influence far outside the European Community. Perhaps I can illustrate its value by referring to the question of human rights.

In 1984, for example, constituents raised with me the plight of the Tukachinsky family. In those pre-glasnost days this was a particularly harsh case. Mrs Tukachinsky had, when pregnant, been allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel. She had given birth to twins, one of whom had died. Her husband had still to see their daughter as the Visa Department followed one refusal with another.

I was told that this would be a difficult case as the Tukachinskys had been married in a religious ceremony—unrecognised by the Russian authorities—rather than a civil ceremony. However, I raised this tragic case in the European Parliament and persuaded over half the MEPs to sign a resolution calling upon the Russian authorities to allow the family to be reunited—and within a few weeks they were.

I could refer to many other similar cases. I know it is fashionable for the sneering classes to question the merits of the European Parliament. But can anyone call a Parliament with such concern over human rights "an absurdity"?

Yours sincerely,
JOHN L. MARSHALL,
House of Commons,
December 14.

Disaster relief

From the Earl of Selkirk, KT

Sir, It is typical of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, VC, that he should see at once the need for world-wide action for disaster relief. I would, however, make one comment—that is, that the central fund should be grant-making rather than executive. Whatever the achievements of the United Nations, speed of action is not likely to be their best quality.

Every country needs their own disaster-relief teams. They already exist in this country and my own contact is with the International Rescue Corps, who are not only well trained but have very modern equipment, including lasers, vibration cameras and heat detectors. They sent two teams to Armenia and I think may count

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homing in on the poorest poor

From Mrs Mary Tyler

Sir, Valerie Riches (December 20) drew attention to the dangers of inadequate and inappropriate child care, while Hermione Parker's article (also December 20) showed how attempts to target help for the poorest families is bound to leave them in the poverty trap.

The targeting should be on the period of greatest need when there is one child or more below school age in the family. Very few mothers are able to make the net contribution to family income which is necessary to prevent poverty if the father is on less than average earnings. Even on average earnings the reduction in disposable income puts a severe strain on the family.

A special family responsibility benefit is needed at this time, in addition to child benefit, which is an all-too-modest contribution to the costs of the child's maintenance. The family responsibility benefit would be in recognition of either the loss of a parent's earnings while there are any children under school age in the home or, alternatively, the costs for provision of responsible substitute care.

There should be a choice for parents in providing the care young children need. If they do not provide it personally, then it needs to be chosen by the parents and be under their control, rather than having subsidised provision either by employers or by the State.

Yours sincerely,
MARY TYLER,
2 Corringway, NW11,
December 21.

From Mr Anthony Wigram

Sir, Hermione Parker's article, "The meanest trap of all", should give all Conservatives a strong twinge of conscience. After nine years in office there can be no excuse for a failure to seriously address this problem, let alone solve it.

What is needed is a broad-brush approach which lies between blanket welfare and penny-pinching bureaucracy. Here are three simple ideas:

1. All single-parent families with children under 10 should be entitled to full supplement without deduction. If the parents manage to part the children and work full or part-time, good luck to them.

2. There should be no deductions from pensions or disability payments in relation to earnings at any level. These should be paid tax-free as of right. If any pen-

Policeman's lot

From the Director of the Police Foundation

Sir, As benefits a professional stage manager of problem discussion, Robert Kilroy-Silk (Commentary, December 16) paints a depressing picture both of tabloid editors and what we have to expect and accept as our police service.

He rightly emphasises the role-conflicts the police face and bemoans the social trends responsible for shaping those conflicts, but omits to point out that all but moribund institutions have to adapt to social change.

While all such adaptation is difficult, it is particularly so for a monopoly founded on the legitimate use of force. The usual mainsprings of peaceful change can be resisted by our police service if effective political opposition is in short supply, both

Rural parish costs

From Mr Colin W. Sellars

Sir, The financial problems of rural parishes are by no means confined to Arlingham, the village in Gloucestershire which is unable to meet a call for funds from its diocese (report, December 17, early editions).

Diocesan quotas all over the country have risen by amounts far in excess of the rate of inflation during the past few years. When one is aware that parishes are also responsible for the rapidly rising costs of maintaining the fabric of the church building and insuring it, the vicar's expense and substantial contributions to such things as the Church Urban Fund, the total financial liabilities of the typical rural parish are reaching crisis level. Congregations are rarely large and in order to make ends meet have to devote most of their time to fund raising—not, surely, the main purpose of their existence.

Not a few churches in other European countries are quite heavily subsidised by the State. It seems ironic that the most "established" Church in Europe gets not a penny from that source!

themselves among those bodies who were warmly thanked by the Soviet Embassy in *The Times* this morning.

Yours faithfully,
SELKIRK,
House of Lords,
December 22.

From Mr S. J. Turney

Sir, Mr King-Harman described (December 20) how the Nato military authorities blocked the idea of a civil emergency force to be available world wide to help post-disaster recovery operations. This is not really surprising but your readers should recall that when the Herald of Free Enter-

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number—(01)782 5046.

Cash that fails to compensate

From Professor David C. Taylor

Sir, Massive sums being awarded in medical compensation cases is one way to show respect for the victim's sense of outrage and loss, and to censure medical carelessness. But the increasing size and frequency of claims actually nourishes the climate of mistrust in which those claims are considered, and generates a sense of lottery, with spectacular winners obscuring the plight of the inevitable majority of embittered losers and those whose natural disasters allow of no claim.

There is a limited pool of money to be applied to health care and recent judicial decisions are in danger of further promoting the current very expensive and inequitable way of applying it, since money spent on a few individuals is diverted from maintaining the service for the majority.

Increasing the insurance contribution of doctors wrongly suggests that they make treatment decisions for gain when working as agents of the NHS. Passing the doctors' insurance costs to the health authorities only adds to the authorities' existing burden.

The whole matter depends upon the judge's decision as to whether massive payments are the appropriate way for our society to manifest its concern, or whether more token recognition would not equally validate the claimant's rights; whether more formal censure, when it is due might not serve as well to concentrate doctors' attention; and whether, for the most part, people who feel themselves victims might be better served by a more accessible but less flamboyant system of compensation.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. TAYLOR,
University of Manchester,
Department of Psychiatry,
Jesse House,
Manchester Road,
Pendlebury,
Manchester M27,
December 22.

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Castle Point (Conservative)

Sir, Last May, the Ethiopian Government released seven princesses—members of the family of the late Emperor Haile Selassie—who had been held in prison for over 13½ years without trial. Those of us in this country who had been campaigning for so long for this to happen were thankful that the incarceration of these innocent people had ended. However the amnesty did not extend to three male members of the family—Vossen Sege (Paul) Mekonnen, aged 38, Michael Mekonnen, aged 34, and Bede Mariam Mekonnen, aged 29.

Arrested in 1974 as young men (Bede Mariam was only 16 at the time), they have spent the best part of their lives in prison. Paul has lost his teeth due to malnutrition and has recently suffered a bad reaction to meningitis vaccine; Michael has been in hospital twice with a liver complaint; and Bede Mariam has a chronic eye infection. Their only "crime" is that they are members of the family of the former Emperor.

Adds Release, the organisation embracing MPs of all parties and outside groups which are strictly non-political, has also been campaigning for various prisoners of conscience held in Ethiopia. They include Martha Kumsa, aged 33, a journalist who previously worked on religious broadcasting; Naimat Issa, a former Civil Servant, and Teshai Tolesse, aged 48, the wife of a clergyman who "disappeared" in July, 1979, after being abducted by gunmen believed to be security officials.

In the name of humanity, Ethiopian authorities must release all these prisoners.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD BRAINE,
House of Commons.

From Mr Eric Pearce

Sir, The roads and fields of Britain are littered with refuse. On a country walk in Surrey it is easy to collect enough discarded tins and bottles to fill a couple of plastic shopping bags.

When this is done, there is the problem of disposal. In the United States I noticed recently that there are trash skips at all car-parking sites, these being emptied regularly.

Why not in England? Were such facilities provided by local authorities, more country walkers might pick up discarded tins in the knowledge that they would be able to dispose of them, and fewer motorists would leave a collection of plastic containers on the parking area where their car or van had rested.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC PEARCE,
Boxgrove Cottage,
Highfield Road,
West Byfleet, Surrey.
December 16.

A tip for rubbish

From Mr Eric Pearce

Sir, The roads and fields of Britain are littered with refuse. On a country walk in Surrey it is easy to collect enough discarded tins and bottles to fill a couple of plastic shopping bags.

When this is done, there is the problem of disposal. In the United States I noticed recently that there are trash skips at all car-parking sites, these being emptied regularly.

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Yours faithfully,
ERIC PEARCE,
Boxgrove Cottage,
Highfield Road,
West Byfleet, Surrey.
December 16.

Cash on delivery

From Mr James Page-Roberts

Sir, Until they left primary school, my children were given five pence if they used an interesting word and another five if it rested well in the sentence.

I learned quite a lot that way. Yours faithfully,
JAMES PAGE-ROBERTS,
Skamrose House, Tangley,
Andover, Hampshire.
December 16.

Strikes
herald
Belgrad
reform

SOCIAL
NEWS

The Princess Royal will attend the Duke Ellington Concert at the Festival Hall on January 23, in aid of the Courtauld Institute of Art Fund.

Birthdays
today

Mr Terry Butcher, footballer, 30; Mr W.A. Camps, former master, Pembroke College, Cambridge, 78; Mr H.D.B. Carr, cricketer, 62; Sir Andrew Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, former vice-chairman, Port of London Authority, 78; Sir Bayard Dill, barrister, 83; Mr T.W. Gould, VC, 74; Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, 56; Mr Max Jaffa, violinist, 77; Mr Max Kennedy, violinist, 32; Lieutenant-General Sir George Lea, 76; Mrs Frances Morrell, former leader, ILEA, 51; Lord Justice O'Connor, 74; Mr Simon Raven, author and dramatist, 61; Professor E.J. Richards, aeronautical engineer, 74; Mrs Joan Ruddock, MP, 45; Lord Salmon, 85; Miss Maggie Smith, actress, 54; the Right Rev W.J. Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough, 63; the Hon Geoffrey Wilson, chairman, Delta Group, 59.

Adopt a beach

Conservationists are seeking foster parents to 'adopt' beaches in an attempt to clean up the coastline. Guardians prepared to mount litter patrols will be offered stretches of beach in South Wales by Friends of the Heritage Coast.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.S. Kerr and Miss K.A. Falconer. The engagement is announced between Scott Stewart, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.F. Kerr, of South Queensferry, West Lothian, and Katherine Anne, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Falconer, of Haslemere, Surrey.

Mr M.R. Robertson and Miss P.J. Price. The engagement is announced between Martyn Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R.S.M. Robertson, of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, and Penelope Jane, eldest daughter of the late Mr R.H. Price, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and Mme J. Penicaud and stepdaughter of M.L. Penicaud, of Paris, France.

Mr J.M. Vella and Miss J.F. Wright. The engagement is announced between Joseph, elder son of Mr Emmanuel Vella and the late Mrs Amelia Vella, of Floriana, Malta, and Jan Foley, elder daughter of the late Martyn Foley Wright and of Mrs Vilma Wright, of Stourbridge, West Midlands.

SCIENCE REPORT

Dabbling in the quark soup

The idea of the Big Bang, according to which the Universe was born in a tiny but immensely hot fireball, has no serious challengers these days. But it is really a general theory rather than a specific model, and at a conference at Berkeley, California, last week on the connections between cosmology and particle physics, George Fuller, of the University of San Diego, described how a lumpy Big Bang, while lacking some aesthetic appeal, might explain some puzzles about the Universe today.

The Universe started out hot and dense, and has expanded over the course of perhaps fifteen thousand million years, to become the cold and fairly empty place it is today. By the time the second of cosmic history had elapsed, the temperature of the Universe was a mere ten thousand million degrees, and it was inhabited chiefly by protons, neutrons and electrons, the familiar constituents of atoms, whose properties we understand very well.

Soon afterwards, protons and neutrons began to stick together in small clumps without being blown apart instantly by the heat.

These clumps were the first atomic nuclei; mostly helium, with traces of lithium and deuterium (a heavy version of hydrogen). These light elements survive; astronomers can detect their presence in distant stars and galaxies. Because nuclear physics is well understood, the exact quantities of these elements can be calculated, assuming

you know how much matter there was in the Universe at a given temperature.

Put the other way round, this means that measurements of their abundance today tells cosmologists how dense the Universe was at early times, which in turn can be used to work out how much matter there should be in the Universe now. Remarkably, the number that comes out of this seemingly tortuous argument agrees very well with what astronomers estimate from counting all the galaxies they can see. This agreement is one of the strongest reasons for believing that the standard Big Bang model must be pretty close to the truth.

But the density of the Universe, estimated in both these ways, turns out to be fairly low, and there is growing astronomical evidence that the Universe is full of dark matter which cannot be seen, but which reveals itself by the way galaxies move around the sky.

Most cosmologists have supposed that this dark matter is some strange stuff, previously unknown to physics, but Fuller and his colleagues have instead assumed that it is conventional matter, perhaps hidden away in the form of very dim stars. This, however, means the early Universe was denser than we first thought, which throws calculations of the light element abundances awry.

To get around this problem, Fuller remarks that we really have no way of knowing what was happening when the Universe was a little younger than one second. At that time, it was too hot for

protons and neutrons to exist, because they would have been torn apart into quarks and gluons, the exotic particles from which they are made. Modern physics is not complete enough to say just how protons and neutrons coagulated from the cooling quark soup, and it is quite possible that it happened very unevenly, like ice forming in lumps of the surface of a freezing pond.

There might then have been dense clumps of protons and neutrons in some places, and none in others. Because neutrons have no electric charge, they can move around more easily, and would spread out from the dense clumps, leaving the protons behind. In places where there were many protons, there would be few neutrons, and vice versa; this makes nuclear reactions less efficient, so that a dense but clumpy universe can make roughly similar amounts of helium, deuterium and lithium as a less dense Big Bang.

Detractors find this clumpy Universe unappealing, and it would indeed be remarkable if it were somehow able to produce light elements in the same amounts that the simple Big Bang makes so straightforwardly. But until defenders of orthodoxy can identify the dark matter in their universes, many astronomers are keeping an open mind.

David Lindley

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A blessed time for Lucky the turkey



Lucky, the appropriately named turkey, savours his second surviving Christmas as he is blessed by the Very Rev John Tombling, Rural Dean of Battersea, during a service for the blessing of circus animals in the Big Top of Gerry Cottle and Austen's circus in Battersea Park, south London, yesterday. It is intended that the blessing will become an annual event.

OBITUARIES

PROF WILLIAM GRIMES
Archaeologist who found Mithraeum from Roman London

Professor W F Grimes CBE, DLitt, FSA, FMA, who died on December 25 at the age of 83, was the first professional archaeologist to be employed full-time on rescue archaeology and led the post-war excavations of Roman and Medieval London. He was for many years director of the London Museum and, later, director of the Institute of Archaeology of London University.

"Peter" Grimes — as he was invariably known in later life, though it would be difficult to point to any similarity between him and the hero of Britten's opera — was a figure of considerable significance in the development of archaeology as a profession in Britain.

Grimes was one of the first to take a thoroughly professional attitude to archaeological fieldwork, and laboured throughout his career first to create the professional standards by which such work could be judged, and secondly to encourage the diffusion of these standards as widely as possible among both professionals and amateurs alike.

Already a very competent fieldworker and excavator, he acquired during the Second World War an unrivalled variety of experience which enabled him to speak with great authority.

At the end of the war Grimes was appointed Director of the London Museum, in succession to Mortimer Wheeler. Shortly afterwards, in 1946, he became Director of Excavations for the newly-formed Roman and Medieval London Excavation Council.

This work, in advance of the redevelopment of the bomb-shattered City, continued over many years. In 1954 in the course of these excavations the famous London Mithraeum came to light on the Walbrook site, a discovery of great public interest which led eventually to the removal of the remains from the site before building operations commenced and their reassembly outside No 11, Queen Victoria Street.

This chance find, though important, was incidental to the main purpose of the London excavations, which for the most part involved the patient investigation and interpretation of very complex

but generally unspectacular deposits, from which a detailed picture of the city could be gradually built up.

Born on October 31, 1905, William Francis Grimes was educated at the University of Wales, where he took First Class Honours in Classics and subsequently obtained an MA with distinction for archaeological work on the Legionary Fortresses at Holt in Denbighshire.

He joined the National Museum of Wales as Assistant Keeper of Archaeology in 1926 and remained there until 1938. He left to join the Ordnance Survey as assistant archaeology officer under O G S Crawford. This continued to be officially his post until 1945, although he had been seconded to the Ministry of Works at the beginning of the war to record and excavate antiquities threatened with destruction because of wartime defence requirements.

This work was what is now called rescue archaeology, and he thus became the first professional archaeologist to be employed full-time in this way. Throughout the conflict he was engaged more or less continuously on the excavation of threatened sites, generally under difficult conditions and with limited resources.

In 1956, on the retirement of Gordon Childe, Grimes became Director of the Institute of Archaeology and Professor of Archaeology in the University of London.

During the next 15 years he guided the institute's fortunes through a period which saw much development and many changes: the most important was the decision to inaugurate honours degrees in archaeology in the university.

At the institute, founded in the 1930s with the intention of providing a professional training for intending archaeologists, Grimes found an approach which coincided with his own, especially in the emphasis on the practical skills needed in the field and on environmental studies. He took great interest in field training activities and in the teaching of recording skills such as surveying and draughtsmanship.

DAW KHIN KYI

Woman pioneer figure in Burma

Daw Khin Kyi, the widow of General Aung San, Burma's national hero, and mother of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, died yesterday in Rangoon at the age of 75.

Aung San was a leader in Burma's struggle for independence from Britain and became the country's first Prime Minister; their daughter emerged as a leader of Burma's largest opposition party during anti-government unrest earlier this year.

Daw Khin Kyi was an important person in her own right. Born in 1911 and qualifying as a nurse, she met and married General Aung San in 1942 while serving with the Medical Corps of the Burma Independent Army.

Her husband's assassination in 1947 on the eve of Burma's independence inevitably thrust her into public life. She became a member of Burma's Parliament and an active health and medical worker, leading Burma's delegation to the World Health Organisation assemblies of 1950, 1951 and 1952.

On her return to Rangoon, Daw Khin Kyi lived quietly in her compound beside Layla

Lake and was rarely seen in public.

Possessed of a most likeable personality, allied to strength of character and integrity, she was devoid of affectation and mixed dignified authority with a robust sense of humour.

Daw Khin Kyi was generously loyal in her friendships. People from all walks of life, and many parts of the world, continued to visit her in her retirement.

She maintained her affection for Britain and her friends here and, in particular, an appreciation of this country's democratic ways.

She is survived by the elder of her two sons and by her daughter. It is poignant that Aung San Suu Kyi, returning to Rangoon this spring to nurse her mother after a serious stroke, should have become by popular appeal one of the leaders of the movement for the restoration of democratic and political freedoms for which her father fought and, in the end, gave his life.

SIR EDWARD TUCKWELL

Royal surgeon from Bart's

Sir Edward Tuckwell, KCVO, consultant surgeon to St Bartholomew's Hospital, and a former Sergeant-Surgeon to the Queen died yesterday, aged 78.

He was surgeon to the Royal Household from 1964 to 1973, Surgeon to the Queen from 1969 to 1973, and Sergeant-Surgeon from 1973 to 1975, when he was awarded the KCVO.

Edward George Tuckwell, the son of a stockbroker, was born at Golding, Surrey, on May 10, 1910. After education at Charterhouse School and Magdalen College, Oxford, he entered St Bartholomew's Hospital where he qualified.

At the outbreak of the

Second World War Tuckwell was appointed as a surgical chief assistant at Bart's, remaining with the unevacuated part of his hospital in London during the early years of the war.

In 1942 he joined the RAMC as a surgical specialist, later taking part in the 2nd Army landing in north-west Europe as a surgical specialist in charge of a field surgical unit, with the rank of major.

After the German armistice he was sent to the Far East where he served with 14th Army in Burma and Sumatra, and became a lieutenant-colonel in charge of the surgical division of general hospitals.

On demobilisation in 1946

Tuckwell worked with Sir James Paterson, Bart's professorial unit before appointment as an assistant surgeon at St Bartholomew's hospital in 1947, and later as full surgeon. He retired from the National Health Service in 1975.

In 1934 he married Phyllis, who died in 1970, and by whom he had two sons and one daughter who now survive him. He married again in 1971 Mrs Barbara Gordon who also survives him.

After his first wife's death a Phyllis Tuckwell Memorial Hospice was founded at Farnham, Surrey, and on this Tuckwell concentrated most of his energies.

HELEN READ

Gifted musical administrator

Helen Read, co-founder with her late husband, Ernest, of the Ernest Read Music Association, died on December 23 at the age of 86.

In 1923 as a 21-year-old student at the London School of Dalcroze Eurhythmics, she met and married its 44-year-old musical director, Ernest Read. Thus began one of the most fruitful musical partnerships this country has seen.

Ernest was already a well-known musician, a dynamic professor at the Royal Academy of Music, an influential writer on musical education, and a powerhouse of ideas and initiatives for getting young men and women just out of

school to perform music together.

Helen discussed all his schemes with him, helped to translate his more visionary ideas into practical undertakings, assisted with his speeches and articles, organised his rehearsals, concerts and courses, and alternately charmed and bullied anyone who could help to get their enterprises off the ground.

What they planned and achieved together in the 1920s and 1930s reads like a compendium of ideas and initiatives which fizzed and boiled into post-war action, nation-wide.

A 1930s initiative was a number of provincial children's concerts which moved to London in 1945, with the establishment of the famous series of Ernest Read's Concerts for Children. Likewise their pre-war initiatives in the area of residential training courses crystallised into the establishment of a summer school in 1949.

When Ernest died in 1965 Helen continued on her own as Director of the Ernest Read Music Association for another 12 years, being awarded the OBE in 1973.

She is survived by two daughters and a step-son.

Settle line 'can pay'

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The controversial and scenic Settle to Carlisle railway line, which is threatened by closure next May if it has not been taken over by private interests, could now profitably, according to consultants.

The report, commissioned by the English and Cumbria Tourist Boards, suggests that revenue of £3 millions a year could be generated within three years, with annual operating costs for the first three years of just over £2.8 millions.

In addition there would be initial capital costs, including a contribution towards the repair of the Ribbleshead Viaduct, which would require expenditure of around £1.4 millions in the first four years. The consultants recommend that there should be an

all-year service between Carlisle and Leeds, with a connection to Blackburn. This would generate additional users on the Carlisle-Leeds section, and a substantial increase in leisure passenger from Greater Manchester.

They also say that there should be special trains running between Carlisle and centres such as York, Manchester and Blackpool, similar to services in Scotland, and Pullman excursions from London to Stratford and York. They also see opportunities for tourist developments at three centres along the line.

They conclude that "The study indicates that the line could be operated successfully by a private company."

Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the USA 1913-21, 1856; Pio Baroja, novelist, 1872; Sir Arthur Eddington, astronomer, 1882. Deaths: Pierre Bayle, philosopher, 1706; Thomas Babington Macaulay, 1st Baron Macaulay, writer and his-

torian, 1859; George Gissing, novelist, 1903; Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, designer of the tower in Paris, 1923; Leon Bakst, painter and stage designer, 1924; Maurice Ravel, composer, 1937; Theodore Dreiser, novelist 1945; Paul Hindemith, composer, 1963.

Countryfolk plan to fight York 'village'

By Ronald Faux

A new "village" for 12,000 people on the outskirts of York that will turn some local farmers and landowners into millionaires is to be strongly opposed.

Plans for the development on Acaster Malbis airfield, a 560 acre second world war bomber base, will be made public when Shepherd Homes of York applies for planning permission in the new year.

The site lies in a triangle of quiet countryside bordered by the Ouse, the Wharfe and the Leeds to York trunk road.

It contains a scattering of small villages, the Appleton Roebuck, Malbis and Selby and Bolton Percy, which opponents say will be ruined if the development is allowed. They have formed Protection of Acaster Communities and Heritage (Poach), claiming that what Shepherds and a powerful consortium of developers propose is far more than a village but a £200 million new town the size of Selby.

"We are terribly concerned for the communities and for the whole natural habitat and atmosphere of this countryside," Mr Roger Rames, a local farmer and a Poach organizer, said. He turned down substantial offers for land he owns on the airfield and a stretch of ancient woodland adjoining it.

"We do well enough out of farming to want to stay here where my family has lived and farmed since 1764. A new town would absolutely transform the countryside around here and ruin it. Yet I appreciate that it is very hard to turn down £100,000 an acre for land that would otherwise be worth no more than £1,500 an acre," he said.

Mr Charles Robinson who owns and farms more than 100 acres of the airfield could become a multi-millionaire the moment planning consent was signed but seemed to be little moved by the prospect. "As far as I understand it, planning permission has not been agreed and everything

would depend on that. What I have been offered and what the land would be worth if it was sold for development is a private matter I do not wish to discuss," he said.

Half a dozen other farmers including Mr Robinson's brother, own other large stretches of the airfield, bought years ago.

Shepherd Homes confirmed they would be putting their scheme forward for planning permission "fairly soon."

When Mr Jolyon Harrison, a Shepherd's official, described the plans at a public meeting, he warned that the company was prepared to press the application to the highest government level.

The 4,500 to 5,000 new homes would be built on a human enough scale and of a design that warranted describing the development as a village. Construction would be over 20 to 25 years with all community services and facilities provided.

A new road linking the development to the main road into York would draw traffic away from the existing villages. "You want to preserve your villages, but so do we," Mr Harrison reassured the locals.

Not all were reassured. Mr Rames said a new town would grossly overload the existing villages, erode the green belt around York and bring in an army of career professionals with little feeling for Acaster's history and heritage. It would rob the community of its stable sense of permanence and concentrate the entire new housing requirement for York until 2006 into a single new town. "That," he said, "cannot make sense."

The Archbishop of York, who lives in nearby Bishopthorpe, has written sympathetically to Poach and Mr Rames quotes a few lines from the 17th century Puritan poet Andrew Marvell who lived nearby in Nun Appleton Hall.

Describing his local countryside, Marvell wrote: "Nature here hath been so free, As if he had said, 'Leave this to me'." The Acaster villagers aim to ensure that Nature is obliged.

Archaeology

The Gold Rush miners' shopping list

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

Archaeologists in San Francisco have uncovered the remains of a Gold Rush store, extant after a disastrous fire 137 years ago. Bottles of imported olives and mustard, patent medicine and whiskey have been found intact, as well as gold-processing equipment, guns and ammunition.

The fire of May 3, 1851 was caused by arson, by a gang known as the Sydney Ducks: a city for less than three years, San Francisco was the landfall for the "Forty-Niners" and their successors, making for the gold lodes in the hinterland, and a mass of wooden bars, brothels, gambling saloons and stores.

"In 1851, a man with a bag of gold could find anything he desired in San Francisco. Liquor, food, firearms, and pleasure of every description were readily available," says Dr Allan Pastron, of the University of California, at Berkeley. "One contemporary observer said that 'California can and does furnish the best bad things that are obtainable in America'."

Dr Pastron has been directing the excavation of what was once William C. Hoff's Gold Rush Store, on the edge of the Long Wharf. The site now lies 15

feet below the junction of Sacramento and Battery Streets in the business district: during the fire the store, built on piles, collapsed and sank into the mud of the harbour edge, and the location was soon covered by landfill as the city was rebuilt and expanded after the fire.

The remains of the store were below the level of San Francisco Bay, and the site had to be shored and continuously pumped out: the excavations were protected from looters each night by turning off the pumps, whereupon some eight feet of water covered the archaeological deposit.

"The significance of Hoff's Store derives from the fact that the site represents a single depositional event — a sort of historical snapshot of life in San Francisco on one day at the height of the Gold Rush," Dr Pastron says in a recent issue of *Archaeology*. "The artefacts provide a glimpse into what early San Franciscans ate, what they wore, how they furnished their homes and businesses, what medicines they favoured, and the sorts of tools and implements they took to the goldfields."

The unlucky, or newly arrived hopeful, could eat salt pork from barrels

filled with "what can only be described as the most unenviable cuts of meat," Dr Pastron says, along with hardback biscuits and beans, all washed down with rough whiskey or ale. Hundreds of bottles, some still full, were unearthed.

Chinese export porcelain toilet outfits were found in silk-lined cedar chests; although Chinese were already present in San Francisco, they were probably too poor to buy such things, which were destined for the homes and hotel rooms of the Anglo-American residents.

Some unexpected items turned up, including a wooden skittle and bowling ball, while an army-issue buckle, martingale, powder flask and medals suggest that an officer lodged above Hoff's Store in May 1851.

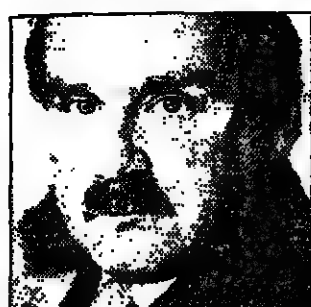
"The archaeology of Hoff's Store highlights the central role of San Francisco as the entrepot for the development of the American West during the momentous days of the Gold Rush," Dr Pastron says. "It is a chronicle of the mundane, a place where the common man came to shop, and documents an aspect of American history that is often left out."

Source: *Archaeology* Vol 41 No 4: 32-39.

THE PASSAGE OF TIME

GLYNIS BOYD HART

FIRST LIGHT by Peter Ackroyd



The latest novel from the author of *Hawksmoor* and *Chatterton* will be published in the spring — and also throughout this week in *The Times*, in six extracts

Part 3: As the excavation of the tumultuous Pilgrin Valley begins in earnest, the chief archaeologist, Mark Clare, and a civil servant, Evangeline Tupper, visit the local farmer, who owns most of the land upon which the project is taking place. Farmer Mint and his son welcome the visitors in their farmhouse, which is overflowing with history

Evangeline Tupper examines the portraits in the Mints' ancient cottage.

"They're all his," Farmer Mint was saying. "Boy Mint's ancestors. He goes back a long way." And in fact these pictures and photographs, which seemed to mark a continuous line of at least three centuries, displayed a succession of faces which bore a striking resemblance to those of the present Mints. "He stretches right back."

"Don't tell me." And, for once, she meant what she said. She thought of her own parents, and their parents before them; they were strangers to her. But somehow worse than strangers. Somehow they were her enemies.

Mark was still looking out of the window, distracted; he thought he had seen a figure standing on top of the tumulus, waving its arms, and although the impression had lasted only a moment, he was still wondering who it could have been when Evangeline came up to him.

"It's a marvellous view from here," he said eagerly. "But you know I could have sworn I saw something..." No one seemed very interested, and he began again. "Miss Tupper..."

"Evangeline, I'm always Evangeline in the country."

"Evangeline wanted to come and thank you both for being so helpful to us. We're making steady progress now," Farmer and Boy Mint did not seem to understand what he meant. "You know," he said. "With the passage grave. The great mound."

"Pretty as an absolute picture," Evangeline added.

Farmer Mint had moved across the room and was staring at the photographs and miniatures of his ancestors. He seemed to be paying no attention to this conversation but now he broke in with, "I wouldn't know anything about that." He turned around and faced Mark. "There's no good," he said, "in talking over dead soil. You won't find much in that."

For once Boy Mint did not need several minutes to collect his thoughts. "Sheep's bones," he said at once. "Rabbit's teeth. Skeletons of dead birds." It was as if he had memorized this litany. "Cow shit."

Evangeline put up her hand and

interrupted him. "I don't think that I have ever spent a nicer or more informative afternoon." Boy was continuing with his list under his breath as she continued, "I'm positively stuffed with rustic lore."

Farmer Mint approved of this. "That's right," he said. "He'll stuff you with it. He won't stop."

"And neither must we." This seemed to Evangeline a very graceful farewell and, smiling triumphantly at Mark, she walked towards the door, opened it and stepped out on the path. Three hens, who had been peacefully browsing amongst some ancient straw, started a chorus of protest and scuttled into the hedge. "I wonder," she asked the Mints as they followed her down the path. "If you fed them chicken, would they become savages?" She did not wait for their answer. "Goodbye. You Mints just keep on being adorable. Like your delightful ancestors. Goodbye."

And as they return to Pilgrin Valley from the farmhouse, Mark tells Evangeline a story.

I was on a field trip in Peru. Beyond the rain forest, they said, was an ancient settlement. And so we set off at dawn. It was like entering a dream. Everything was too large — the stamps of dead trees covered by moss, the creepers which trailed down like the strips of huge kites, the plants which seemed to grow both upward and downward so that there was no room for us to pass between, the slender trunks of trees which seemed to rise for ever, the fountains opening out in front of us — and everything was too green, too vivid. It was as if we had wandered into the drawing of a forest in a story book, and at any moment giants were going to part the leaves and peer at us. And you know how in an English forest you can feel the peacefulness of its age? How centuries of quiet have entered it like a mist? There was nothing of that in the rain forest. It was so vivid that it might just have sprung into life, and you could tell as you walked that it would never change, never grow old. It would always be too bright. And the smell — the smell was not soothing, not the smell of decay, but the rank smell of things newly born. And I thought, how could ancient ruins exist in such a place? Of course I was wrong...

We had reached a crest above a huge valley and, when I looked across in the direction my guide was pointing, I saw a wide plateau of rock upon the other side of the valley. "Do you see them now?" he asked me and, as my eyes grew accustomed to the dark grey expanse, I saw tall standing stones behind the plateau. They were in a circle and there, in the centre, I could see an earthwork. It might have been a tumulus like the one in our valley but it was bigger, much bigger, and the summit of it had been flattened as if by some giant hand. "You see there," the

guide said. "You see clearly now?" He pointed at the great earth mound. "This is the place. Here it was in sacred times that men used to fly." I asked him what he meant. "I thought," he said, "that you saw it clearly." Then he chuckled. "They would fly from the great hill. They would fly from out of the circle into the sky."

And, you know, Miss Tupper, it was a circle just like this one. Just like the circle here in Pilgrin Valley.

There are other visitors in the area — Joey Hanover, an ageing comic, and his wife, Floey, who have come with a specific purpose.

The old man in the straw hat and pink blazer was sitting on an outcrop of dark grey rock, singing softly to himself.

Only to see the old cottage again. How my poor heart would rejoice.

To see the old faces I loved. And to hear my poor mother's voice...



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His voice trailed off, and he started humming instead, when an elderly woman with difficulty crossed the stony beach to join him.

"Honest, Joey," she said. "Never again. Not for all the money in China."

"Tea, dear."

"I don't care what it is. It's still my poor feet." She was wearing pink, too, this rather dried-up little old woman with her white hair carefully crafted into bunches

'I remember purple flowers. And there were faces, too. White faces like the faces of angels. It's a dream. Do you know what I mean? Except that this dream is somewhere close to hand'

of tight white curls, and her voice was husky, as if she had a permanently sore throat.

"But Floey, don't you enjoy your morning promenade? In a lovely spot like this?" He smiled and tipped his straw hat at a conventionally jaunty angle, although his face retained its somewhat lugubrious expression.

"It's a mure point," she said.

"Moot."

"It's debatable." She put out her hand and helped him up from the rock. "We have no call to be here in the first place. On a wild duck chase."

He laughed. "Do you remember that old song, Floey. For the sake of the days gone by?"

"Sung in a mysterious way?"

"That's the one." They were now walking arm in arm along the strand, the reflected light from the sea making the stones shine in front of them. "I'm here for the sake of my days gone by. I'm a thing of the past, old dear."

"Don't go on about it, Joey."

"I just want to know what my past is. Or was." He stopped and looked out at the sea. It was at low tide, and stretching down towards it from the exposed shore were flat outcrops of dark slate. From this distance they seemed smooth, as if they had been polished by the endless movement of water, but when Joey Hanover came closer he saw how they were marked with small holes and grooves. He was a large and apparently ungainly man, but with a sudden graceful gesture he leapt onto the surface of the slate and began to walk across it to the sea.

"Joey! Break a leg!" Floey laughed at the silhouette of her husband, in straw hat and pink blazer, nonchalantly standing in front of the bright waves. In response he kicked one leg in the air, tried to make a twirl, slipped and fell upon the slate; but he could not have been seriously hurt, since immediately his attention was drawn to something lying upon the rock beside him. He picked it up, waved it above his head and shouted something; but the sound of the slowly advancing sea drowned his words.

"I've got something here," he said when he returned, slightly breathless, "which is thousands of years old."

"One of your jokes?"

"Don't mock, Floey. Take a look."

He held a piece of rock towards her and, wrinkling her nose in apparent disgust, she examined the spiral shape of a small-life creature embedded in the stone.

"Is it dead then?"

"Of course it's dead. Things that old don't come to life again."

"Don't be so sure." The shape of this thing, curled in its last primeval sleep, reminded her of the image of a star, its various gases spiralling around a tiny central core. "It's one of them mammoths," she said at last.

"Is that the right word? Mammoth?" Joey was accustomed to his wife's little mistakes with the language.

She gave him a look of utter contempt. "Of course I'm sure. I read about them."

He held a piece of rock towards her and, wrinkling her nose in apparent disgust, she examined the spiral shape of a small-life creature embedded in the stone.

"Is it dead then?"

"Of course it's dead. Things that old don't come to life again."

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Sir Richard Attenborough tells Andrew Billen why the film biography of Charlie Chaplin is so important to him

Dickie, Charlie and a movie make three

There are parallels to be drawn between Sir Richard Attenborough and Charlie Chaplin, the subject of his forthcoming movie. Both came from England and, graduating from acting to directing, became associated with liberal, not to say left-wing, movie making. Both made it big in Hollywood.

Chaplin, however, was born into the poverty of Victorian Kensington and arrived in California a near illiterate. Attenborough's home in Leicester, on the other hand, was wealthy enough to allow his parents to take in refugees. He is self-taught but, at 65, seems to have made a thorough job of it. And whereas Chaplin was a four-times-married philanderer, after 43 years Attenborough is still wed to Sheila Sim, who, he explained when the stewardess offered him a salad, would have supper waiting for him at home in Richmond.

He was returning from the Brussels launch of the European Script Development Fund, a brave scheme dreamt up by the European Commission to fight the increasing American colonization of European cinema and television. Already chairman of Channel 4, the British Film Institute, the British Screen Advisory Council and Capital Radio, he has been appointed chairman of the fund, too, and has pulled off a minor coup in locating his headquarters in the community's least enthusiastic partner, Britain. Even at the European press conference, however, one German journalist wanted to know instead about *Chaplin, The Movie*.

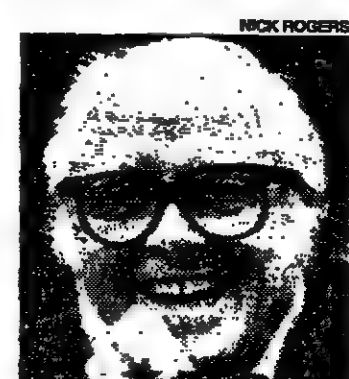
At the formal lunch that followed, Attenborough was more willing to elaborate. Within sentences his voice and enthusiasm were soaring. "Chaplin was literally the world's first famous man. When he stood on the balcony of the Ritz on a visit in the early 1920s he brought Piccadilly to a standstill. And he got the same reaction in the States," he said. "He created Hollywood. Without Chaplin, Hollywood today would be a collection of beach huts."

Attenborough, a reckless squarer of thighs and linker of arms regardless of their gender, then blew a kiss in the direction of Diana Hawkins, his marketing director. This was not the gesticulatory non sequitur it seemed.

As much as it is his, the Chaplin project belongs to Hawkins (whom he calls by her maiden name, Carter). With a break for a failed marriage, she has worked with him for 30 years and has now, for the first time, written a treatment for one of his films.

"It was her idea to do Chaplin. It's her dream as well as mine," he explained, somewhere over the English Channel. "She knows much more about him than I do and she is writing the first draft of the screenplay."

Attenborough has obtained exclusive rights to Chaplin's biography, archives and films from his widow, Oona. Until now she had effectively exercised a veto over a biopic, because under American law she has to grant permission for her own screen portrayal. At this stage she is being paid only a nominal sum for a large bundle of



Chaplin enthusiast: Sir Richard

Attenborough, presumably because she trusts the indicatives of her husband's life with the director of *Gandhi* and *Cry Freedom*.

She already owns Chaplin's early short films, many not shown for 60 years, and the rights to his major movies — *City Lights*, *The Gold Rush*, *The Great Dictator* — revert to her in two years. This will spare Attenborough the task of finding an actor who can replicate Chaplin's screen genius: when we see Chaplin take a knife and fork to his boots, we will be watching the tramp himself.

The problem of casting the man behind the moustache remains. Torn between a star name or an unknown, in the fashion of Ben Kingsley and Gandhi, he has already ruled out one name, Tommy Steele, perhaps Chaplin's greatest British admirer. He added it would be "arrant stupidity" not to involve Oona. Chaplin, he says, is no subject for hagiography. "From what I have

heard he could be a bitch to work with because of his perfectionism. However, in terms of his relationship with his wife and children he was immensely alluring. He adored her."

The film is one of three which Attenborough has agreed to make in a \$75 million index-linked deal with Universal Pictures.

Having bought the research work on a movie about the Victorian explorer Sir Richard Burton, from the actress Edana Romney, he last year employed William Goldman, his writer on *A Bridge Too Far* and *Magnum*, to script a \$25 million adaptation. Then the writers' strike was called and Goldman had to stop. At this point another writer, Bob Ralpherson, went to Caroleo Films with an already completed script on the same subject, budgeted at just \$10 million. The makers of *Rambo* leapt at the chance.

When the strike ended, Attenborough turned to his other idea, a film about the 18th-century radical Thomas Paine, and hired Trevor Griffiths to do the screenplay. He has now heard that the Disney studios have embarked on a similar project, directed by and starring Richard Dreyfuss.

Attenborough flies to see Tom Pollock, the head of Universal, in January, for a decision on whether to go with Paine or with Burton. Only after one or other is made will he start on Chaplin.

Attenborough will not allow himself to think Dreyfuss will press ahead: "Trevor has been researching Paine for a year now, and I have been working on it for

two. It is something that I have been living with since my father gave me a copy of the *Rights of Man*, when I was about 17."

His father, a don who wrote the standard work on Anglo-Saxon law, has much to answer for. When Dickie was nine he took him to see a classic movie. London's city lights now beneath us, Attenborough momentarily stopped playing the great director and became the kid: "I haven't seen it for years but I could recite *The Gold Rush* to you even now, scene by scene. If you really want to go back, it was Chaplin who made me want to act."

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00 Cee-fax AM. News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.40 Kirkwood and Brown in *Rogues to Riches* (b/w). 6.50 Weather.
- 7.00 Breakfast Time with Kirsty Wark and Jeremy Paxman. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25; regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27.
- 8.30 The Flintstones (r). 8.55 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 News and weather followed by *Now It's Christmas* presented by Simon Parkin and Andy Crane beginning with *Boys Cat* 9.30 *Why Don't You...?* 7. Entertaining ideas for young people with *Time on their hands*.
- 10.00 News and weather followed by *Popeye* (r). 10.30 *Playboys*. The story of the first film to be made in colour. 10.55 Five to Eleven. Frank Thornton with a reading.
- 11.00 News and weather followed by *Roll With It* starring Sylvester McCoy. Episode three of a four-part adventure. *The Greatest Show in the Galaxy* (Coefax).
- 11.05 The Guinness Book of Records. A special presentation by David Frost with Norris McWhirter. Includes a world record attempt by the Royal Signals Motorcycle Display Team. The guests are Sarah Brighman and Michael Bull. (Coefax).
- 11.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. Regional news and weather.
- 11.30 *Who Begins at 40* (see Choice).
- 11.40 *Flax Two Road Together* (1991) starring James Stewart and Richard Widmark. Western drama about a Texas marshal and a US Cavalry lieutenant who are ordered to negotiate with the Comanches for the return of white captives. When they reach the camp they learn that only four of the prisoners have survived. Directed by John Ford. (Coefax).
- 12.45am Weather.

BBC2

- 9.00 Cee-fax.
- 12.00 Film: *William Tell* (1945, b/w) starring Basil Rathbone and Joan Greenwood. Comedy, set in 1306, about a Scottish hero who is a whisky-drinker until a ship with a cargo of scotch is shipwrecked on the island. Directed by Alexander Mackendrick. (Coefax).
- 1.30 A Dream of Pompeii. A film account of the Roman city of Pompeii, as it was in the days of the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Directed by John Huston.
- 3.00 News and weather followed by *Showerhead* 88 introduced by Tony Robinson 3.40 News, regional news and weather 3.50 *Women of Our Century*. Abstract artist Paula Vozzley (r). (Coefax).
- 4.30 The 1988 Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. The first of five lectures on "The Home of the Future" by Professor Gareth Roberts.
- 5.30 Jack High. The Woolwich Masters Bowls Tournament.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am.
- 6.25 *Radio 1* Tilted. Cartoon version of Kipling's tale of a mongoose (r). 6.55 Thames news and weather.
- 10.00 The Broom of the Opera. Animated version of the classic thriller about a crazed man who haunts the sewers around the Paris Opera House 10.55 News headlines.
- 11.00 Run the Game. A sports contest between teams representing Great Britain, the United States, Australia and the Netherlands. Introduced by Martin Tyler (r). 11.55 Thames news and weather.
- 12.00 Mr & Mrs. Game show for couples presented by Derek Batey and Donna Mayers 12.30 A Country Practice. Medical drama serial set in a remote Australian sheep township.
- 1.00 News at One with John Suchet.
- 1.30 *Flax One Road Together* (1991) starring James Stewart and Richard Widmark. Western drama about a Texas marshal and a US Cavalry lieutenant who are ordered to negotiate with the Comanches for the return of white captives. When they reach the camp they learn that only four of the prisoners have survived. Directed by John Ford. (Coefax).
- 1.30 *Who Begins at 40* (see Choice).
- 1.40 *Flax Two Road Together* (1991) starring James Stewart and Richard Widmark. Western drama about a Texas marshal and a US Cavalry lieutenant who are ordered to negotiate with the Comanches for the return of white captives. When they reach the camp they learn that only four of the prisoners have survived. Directed by John Ford. (Coefax).
- 12.45am Weather.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 *Seaside Street*.
- 10.30 The Hidden Kingdom - A Himalayan Adventure. The story of a British expedition to climb the unscalable Gaurangang, Bhutan's greatest mountain (r).
- 11.30 Street Hockey from Leicester.
- 12.00 Table Tennis. The Leeds Test series between England and China.
- 1.00 Olympics '88. Barry Norman with highlights of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- 2.25 Anne of Green Gables - The sequel. The story of Anne's life as a teacher but still harbours an ambition to write.
- 4.45 Hand in Hand. For both hearing and deaf children. (Coefax).
- 5.15 One Love. The first of three programmes on Rastafarianism and their faith.
- 6.00 *Flax Two Road Together* (1991) starring James Stewart and Richard Widmark. Western drama about a Texas marshal and a US Cavalry lieutenant who are ordered to negotiate with the Comanches for the return of white captives. When they reach the camp they learn that only four of the prisoners have survived. Directed by John Ford. (Coefax).
- 7.00 Channel 4 News with Nicholas Owen and Anne Perkins.
- 7.50 Comment followed by *Weather* 8.00 Kate & Allie (r).

Memories of Monroe

TELEVISION REVIEW

At the beginning of the week, the front page of this newspaper reported a technological breakthrough in home viewing. At no small expense in research funding, it has been discovered that the visual perception of a television screen may be enhanced by the addition of a cardboard frame. Wearing its square flea collar, cut no doubt from the box in which it arrived, your humble 12-inch Sony will now supply not just width and height but also depth. This marvellous innovation must be particularly useful when contemplating such offerings as *Remembering Marilyn* (C4) which might otherwise give Coward's Norfolk a run for its money. Regrettably, having already used all available cardboard to construct a life-sized effigy of Lord Kestrel, my household had to take it as it came.

"Hosted" by Lee Remick and targeted perhaps at recently arrived viewers who may have missed the previous 57 television tributes to Marilyn Monroe this year, the quarter-century of her death, the programme rounded up the usual interchangeable suspects - Robert Steinem, Gloria Wagner, Robert Strassberg, Susan Mitchell and so on - to dilate on the late star's tragic loneliness, vulnerability and cleavage. This was admirably balanced by vox pop footage of real Americans with meaningless faces, most of whom are delighted to live in a country where people exactly like them have the malleable rights to become myths. The "real" Marilyn is, of course, a publicist's fiction and it can be in no one's interest - least of all in that of the publishing industry - to utter the final, definitive word.

Remick's script would have taken a chimp with a word processor a lifetime to achieve. Monroe's life was, apparently, "a long search for the most elusive role of all... herself" while beighted in the "chill inner landscape of her own experience". Nothing, however,



Marilyn Monroe: from tomboy to sex symbol

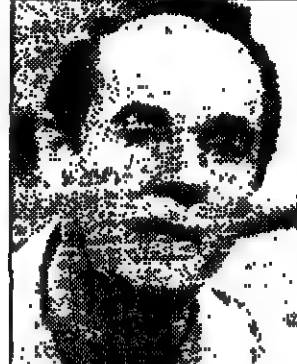
could top Monroe's contribution, at the climax of a petrol commercial in which she drove a snazzy roadster, pet named Cynthia, on to a garage forecourt. Aiming her quivering lips at a posse of gas-pumping hunks, the future star commanded: "Put Royal Trident in Cynthia's little tummy".

Casting fresh light on Monroe's own anatomy, barrel-scrapping home movies displayed a bouncy teenage hoyden cultivating the bare shoulders and bald oxters that were later to ensue a president; much earlier in life, a sturdy toddler tottered along a monochrome beach, rehearsing fame and misfortune without realizing she was doing any such thing. How diligently the dead cooperate. But then it was all like a family snapshot, gauche and very flat.

Martin Cropper

TELEVISION CHOICE

"Marriages may be made in heaven, but they have to be lived in Woking," says one of the protagonists in *Wife Begins at 40* (BBC1, 9.30pm), as if Woking was some kind of hell. It is actually a convenient shorthand for a familiar Home Counties world of fancy-dress parties and keeping up appearances. About to celebrate their seventeenth wedding anniversary, a seemingly happy couple of George (Ray Cooney) and Linda (Liza Goddard) have come to the parting of the ways. She wants something more from the marriage than a comfortable home with smart new carpets and curtains. Dull old George is failing to provide it. Trying to arouse his romantic instincts by wearing a seductive nightie, she finds him fast asleep on the sofa. *Wife Begins at 40* is a classic illustration of the dictum (attributable, I think, to Sir Brian Rix) that farce is tragedy with its trousers down. Played straight, it would be a harrowing drama of sexual frustration. With lines like, "Linda, I've got something caught in my zip", pain and embarrassment can be diffused into giggles. Directed by a seasoned BBC comedy hand, Harold Snood, the production was recorded before a studio audience, an unusual departure designed to recreate the spontaneity of the theatre. It was a good idea but I felt that the audience took time to get into the mood. Perhaps a seasonal drink or two before-



Ray Cooney as a stick-in-the-mud husband (BBC1, 9.30pm)

hand might have helped. A funnier script would have helped even more. But in the post-Christmas inertia, who wants to be too critical?

Transmitted, as all good horror stories should be, at an appropriately late hour, *Schlocken the Painter* (BBC2, 11.45pm) is a welcome repeat of Leslie Megahey's superb film which was first shown in *Omnibus* in 1979. Television tends to be shy about reviving its classics, but if old films are fair game, why not old TV programmes? The setting is 17th-century Holland and the plot embraces mystery, deceit, a painting and the selling of a beautiful woman for money. Jeremy Clyde plays the title role, with Maurice Denham and Cheryl Kennedy. *Schlocken the Painter* was taken from a story by the 19th-century Irish writer, Sheridan Le Fanu, whose best-known book, *Uncle Silas*, starts a three-part serialization on BBC2 next week as *The Dark Angel*.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

And the toast today is to the women who read stories to us on radio. Raise your glasses, please, to Anna Massey who will give you an attack of goose-pimples as she reads Elizabeth Bowen's *The Cat Jumps in Short Shocks* (Radio 4, 5.30pm); and to Hannah Gordon for managing to keep sentimentality at bay in the repeat broadcast of Raymond Briggs's *The Snowman* (Radio 4, 9.20pm); and to Jill Gascoine who is re-reading Sara Maitland's *The Wicked Stepmother's Lament* in *Woman's Hour* (Radio 4, 2.00pm); and to Penelope Wilton (re-reading Frank Tashly's *Thunderbolt* on Radio 4, 8.42am). It is coincidental that all four happen to be actresses. All the more credit to them, therefore, that they do not put on theatrical airs, nor do they treat their roles as soliloquies that have been detached from a play. Being actresses, though, they know how to lift the characters of the script, infuse them with life, and send them over the imaginary footlights that separate the microphone from the radio set. I must put in a special word for Anna Massey, and the way she tackles *The Cat Jumps*. When she talks about the decomposition that attacks everyone at a dinner party in the house where a man once murdered his wife, her ladylike voice is transformed into a flick-kick.

Peter Davalle



The veteran Hollywood film star Tony Curtis (left) is one of the guests on Des O'Connor's show tonight (ITV, 8.00pm)



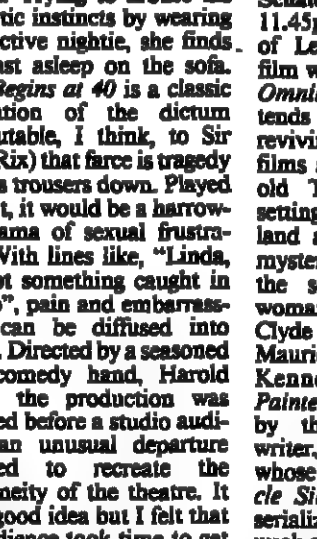
Des O'Connor's show tonight (ITV, 8.00pm)



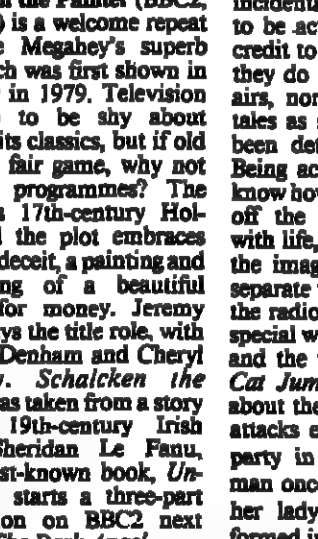
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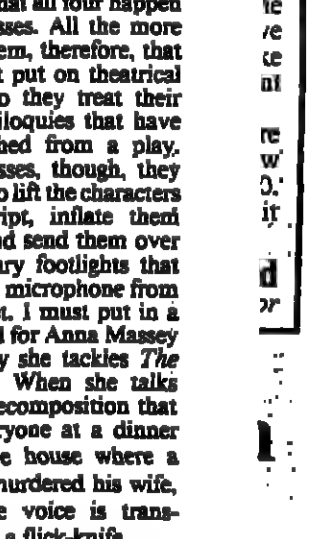
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Des O'Connor's show tonight (ITV, 8.00pm)



Des O'Connor's show tonight (ITV, 8.00pm)



Des O'Connor's show tonight (ITV, 8.00pm)

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6.55 Weather, News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert:
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London Baroque under
Media; Handel (Organ
Concerto in F Op 4 No 4;
English Concert; Mark
Pinnock with Simon
Preston, organ)

Radio 2

6.55 Weather, News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert:
Cherempan (Musique de chambre pour Andromeda)
London Baroque under
Media; Handel (Organ
Concerto in F Op 4 No 4;
English Concert; Mark
Pinnock with Simon
Preston, organ)

WORLD SERVICE

6.55 Weather, News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert:
Cherempan (Musique de chambre pour Andromeda)
London Baroque under
Media; Handel (Organ
Concerto in F Op 4 No 4;
English Concert; Mark
Pinnock with Simon
Preston, organ)

Radio 3

6.55 Weather, News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert:
Cherempan (Musique de chambre pour Andromeda)
London Baroque under
Media; Handel (Organ
Concerto in F Op 4 No 4;
English Concert; Mark
Pinnock with Simon
Preston, organ)

Radio 4

6.55 Weather, News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert:
Cherempan (Musique de chambre pour Andromeda)
London Baroque under
Media; Handel (Organ
Concerto in F Op 4 No 4;
English Concert; Mark
Pinnock with Simon
Preston, organ)

Radio 5

6.55 Weather, News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert:
Cherempan (Musique de chambre pour Andromeda)
London Baroque under
Media; Handel (Organ
Concerto in F Op 4 No 4;
English Concert; Mark
Pinnock with Simon
Preston, organ)

Radio 6

6.55 Weather, News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert:
Cherempan (Musique de chambre pour Andromeda)
London Baroque under
Media; Handel (Organ
Concerto in F Op 4 No 4;
English Concert; Mark
Pinnock with Simon
Preston, organ)

Drink-drive reductions encouraging, says ministry

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

A picture has emerged of wide variations in the levels of drink driving over the Christmas period in different regions of Britain.

Some police forces, particularly in Scotland, had no breath tests which showed that the driver had consumed more than the legal limit on Christmas Day or Boxing Day, while Derbyshire reported an increase of 25 per cent in "positive" tests.

For five days immediately before Christmas Eve, figures collated by the Association of Chief Police Officers had shown a decline of almost 20 per cent in the number of positive tests, by comparison with the previous year's figures. It is expected to be some days before more up-to-date figures are fully collated.

Yesterday the Department of Transport said that if the figures were correct they were encouraging, though it hoped the improvement would continue throughout the year and not just at Christmas.

The number of positive drink driving tests will vary greatly according to the policies of different police forces.

In Scotland the Tayside and Grampian forces found no one over the limit on either Christmas Day or Boxing Day.

The Central Scotland police recorded only one case on Christmas Day and none on Boxing Day, the Dumfries and Galloway police force had no positive tests on Christmas

Day, and only one on Boxing Day.

Strathclyde, Scotland's largest region, recorded a combined total of 17 on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, compared to 23 on Boxing Day alone last year.

The Fife police, which has a policy of testing every driver involved in a moving vehicle accident, disclosed that it had one positive breath test on Christmas Day and two, with one refusal to take the test, on Boxing Day.

At the other end of the scale, in Derbyshire between December 19 and the early hours of Tuesday 706 motorists were tested, 64 more than last year. Of those 58 were positive compared with 48 at Christmas 1987.

Supt John Austick, head of the county's road traffic division, said: "It was disappointing to say the least."

"We seem to be left with a hard core of drink drivers who continue to ignore the warnings and behave with inexcusable irresponsibility."

In Kent, of 455 drivers who were tested over the Christmas and Boxing Day period, 83 were positive, a reduction on last year's figures.

North Wales police reported four positive breath tests on Christmas Day and six on Boxing Day.

In Devon and Cornwall 87 drivers failed breath tests between December 21 and 26, yesterday out of 843 tests given in the two counties.

Syria shivers as Britain basks in the sun



Playing in the snow: A girl builds a snowman in Damascus, capital of Syria. Rare snowfalls have affected all parts of Syria, blocking many roads

No sign of cold for at least five days

By Robin Young

There will be no cold snap in Britain for at least the next five days, weathermen promised yesterday. Although Scotland and the North will be colder and wetter this morning, mild conditions are expected well into the new year.

Conditions in Scotland for would-be skiers were described as "hopeless"; dry skiers in London and the Home Counties are doing brisk business — some from people who have returned from skiing resorts for lack of snow.

"There is the possibility of some fresh snow showers in the Alps tomorrow", the London Weather Centre predicted, "but generally the whole of Europe, with the exception of far northern Scandinavia, is several degrees warmer than average for the time of year. Any snow that falls will only settle on very high ground. Elsewhere it is likely to turn to rain."

The only European capitals which reported temperatures below freezing at lunchtime yesterday were Madrid (-1°C) and Moscow (-13°C).

In the eastern Mediterranean, however, wintry conditions have hit with greater effect. There is snow in Lebanon and Syria, and it is very cold around Istanbul.

Long break, page 3

Balmy at Kew, page 6



Playing without snow: Miss Corinne Langford, aged 18, of Rainham, Essex, happily tackles a dry ski slope in east London.

Apathy greets media frenzy

Continued from page 1

Ola in the Volga had nominated Mr Yegor Ligachov. A meeting in the agricultural region of Oryol had nominated the head of agriculture, Mr Viktor Nikonov.

At some of the meetings reported in Moscow, the nominees were more modest, being factory managers or officials, but the process was only a little more competitive.

In one case, a rival ceded victory before any vote was cast and recommended one of the other candidates.

The general public apathy may not be overcome easily. For the much-heralded election on March 26 will not produce the Soviet Union's new Parliament just like that.

The relationship between the voter and his elected representative will be more complicated. For a start, the electorate will be electing not a

Parliament, but a Congress of People's Deputies comprising 2,250 people that will meet for only two weeks. Nor will all voters be electing all deputies; a third of the seats are reserved for nominees of "public organizations".

Those groups which qualify for reserved places include the Communist Party, the Communist Youth League (Komsomol), the official trade union organization, and a collection of amateur societies — including stamp collectors.

Those organizations which do not qualify include the Popular Front organizations in the Baltic states, which have been active over the past half-year in representing the interests of some of the Soviet minority nationalities.

The Congress of Deputies will be partly a forum for diverse views — allowing public expression of discontent perhaps, along the lines of the special Communist Party conference last June — and partly an electoral college. In this capacity, it will elect the standing Parliament and then bow out, although the possibility of its recall cannot be ruled out.

Because the composition of the Congress of People's Deputies is weighted in the direction of the "public organizations", Communist Party members and others who play an active part in the present government system will have more than one vote: one as an ordinary constituency member and one in each organization to which they belong.

The success of the new system in drawing more people into the Soviet political process will be judged by two factors: the turnout in the nationwide elections on March 26, and the final composition of the new Supreme Soviet. The Parliament will only be more representative if it incorporates people who would not have been elected under the previous system.

Londoner freed from Iranian jail

Continued from page 1

release of Mr Nicola, Mr Tom Clarke, Labour MP for Monkslands West, Strathclyde, who joined a delegation to Iran this summer said: "It suggests that it was right to restore diplomatic relations and reopen the British Embassy."

"It is very important we should keep pressing for the release of Roger Cooper from Iran and the British hostages from Beirut."

"It has taken time to recover from the shooting down of the Iranian Airbus over the Gulf but it would appear that things are now beginning to move in the right direction, he said."

Since Iran called a halt to the Gulf War with Iraq four months ago it has worked steadily at improving relations with the West, first with France, then Britain in an attempt to be readmitted into the international community after years of isolation.

The Foreign Secretary Sir

Geoffrey Howe, and Britain's new acting charge d'affaires in Tehran, Mr Gordon Pirie, have made it clear to Iranian officials that relations could not progress until the cases of Mr Nicola and Mr Cooper were resolved.

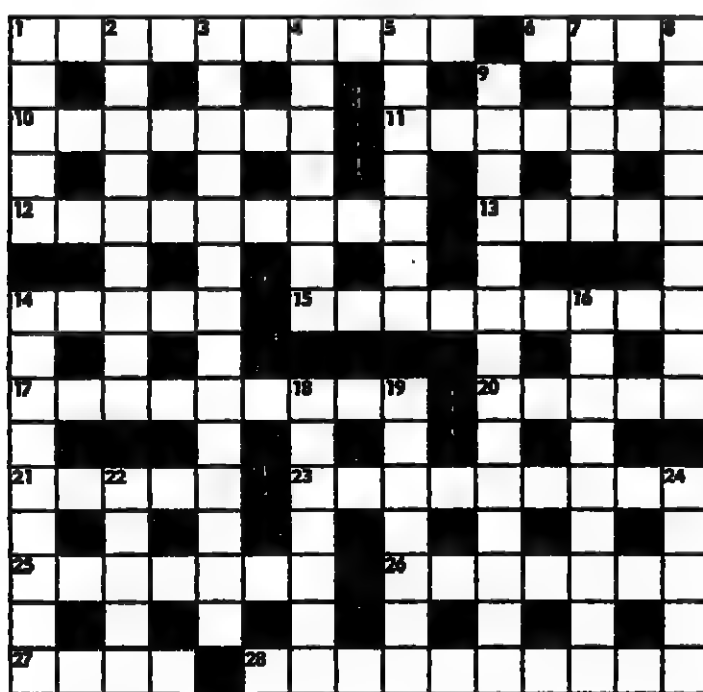
Although the two countries officially reestablished diplomatic relations last month the warming process has been slow and Whitehall said yesterday that it expected more from Iran.

● Release delayed: Reports from Lebanon yesterday suggested that the two young French sisters being held hostage by a Palestinian extremist group had still not been allowed to leave Beirut.

It now seems that Virginie and Marie-Laure Valente, aged six and seven, remained in detention at the very moment on Monday when a spokesman for the Abu Nidal faction was assuring their family that they had been freed in a Christmas gesture.

French hostage delay, page 7

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,864



- ACROSS**
- The language, when actors robe with difficulty! (5-5).
 - Wounding remark pointedly made in a wire (4).
 - Costermonger's wife with an aversion to sneezing? (7).
 - About a generation back, a sick student would be banned (7).
 - Skewer in brand-new condition used in cooking (9).
 - Lively as the French in paintings and sculpture (5).
 - The chief magistrate is a flighty female (5).
 - Reclined act covering land allotted for mining (9).
 - Sea cruise initiated by a woman head? (9).
 - Sport with many a confederate (5).
 - Crustacean from river caught by man on board (5).
 - Officer has ship's prison aired for a change (9).
 - Condiment obtained from island in state park, maybe (7).
 - It is vital to be constitutional (7).
 - Genuine old Spanish coin (4).
 - Maker of scientific investigation about a Kentish bowman? (10).
- DOWN**
- Arrogance seen initially in sporting teams (5).
 - Uproar always made by a mobster (9).
 - Acc gunman taking money in the arcade? (3-5-6).
 - Discern materials set aside (7).
 - Like one with a nervous spasm of continental origin (7).
 - An old tribesman's point of view (5).
 - Behind time (delayed in bed? Extremely likely) (9).
 - Such undercover operations do lack danger, perhaps, when involving a horse (5-5-6).
 - Edible product of Cape, more fully developed outside (4-5).
 - Small fraction a Scottish philosopher hit on, oddly enough (9).
 - Send me up a couple to adopt (7).
 - Offensive rumour about one man's origins (7).
 - Set of characters losing water to a bright star (5).
 - French coin with king on both sides to make a come-back (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- SOEN**
- The mountain ash
 - To gaterask a party
 - A system of barter
- VULSELLA**
- A serrated forceps
 - A gift of salt
 - A small thorn
- CHINOVNIK**
- A Soviet Sinologist
 - Sugar beet bransy
 - A Russian bureaucrat
- SALOGOK**
- Young black ice
 - A fish harpoon
 - The new tandem growth

Answers on page 18

Solution to Puzzle No 17,863

VARNISH DEWDROP
A I L A E H E A
M A G I P A T R I C I A N
I G U P E M G A
L O R N A Y O R S O N I C
L A H I I H
A N N O Y O B J E C T I V E
O E U E A N
S M E L L A N A T L A P E L
E A S O R E T E N O I N E
P L A S T I C R E V O L V E R
A B U N D A N C E G H A N A
I F O G A U T A
R E F U G E E M I S L E A D

WEATHER

Generally cloudy and mild but some rain over Scotland, Northern Ireland and the far north of England, mainly during the morning. It will tend to move slowly south, affecting northern England and Wales at times, while clearing from the north and north-west Scotland, allowing sunny spells and a few showers. Generally dry and bright over England and Wales, with light rain or drizzle. Outlook: mostly dry and mild over England, rain at times in the north, colder in Scotland.

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	
Algeria	15-20	10-15	10-15	

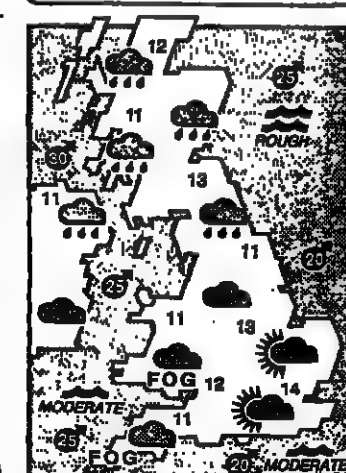
AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	

AM



PM



YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	

LONDON

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	

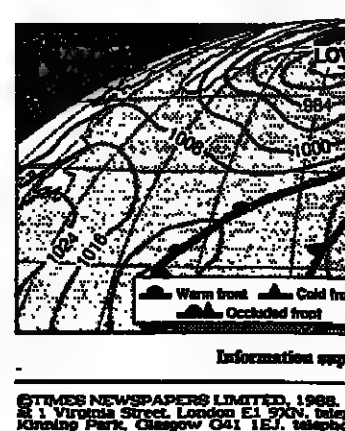
HIGHEST & LOWEST

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	

MANCHESTER

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	
Manchester	10-15	10-15	10-15	

NOON TODAY



STOCK MARKETS

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	

INTEREST RATES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	

CURRENCIES

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	

GOLD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	

NORTH SEA OIL

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	

THE POUND

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	
London	10-15	10-15	10-15	</

CHANGE ON WEEK	
FT 30 Share	1436.2 (+0.2)
FT-SE 100	1774.0 (+0.3)
USM (Datastream)	146.41 (+0.25)
US dollar	1.8005 (-0.0115)
W German mark	3.1986 (+0.0068)
Trade-weighted	77.4 (-0.3)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Parkinson urged to halt power increase

By Our Energy Correspondent

Large industrial users of electricity have asked Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary, to rescind the 6 per cent price increase due to be introduced by the electricity supply industry next April.

The Energy Intensive Users Group has written to Mr Parkinson saying that circumstances have changed so much since the financial targets for the industry were set by his department earlier this year that price rises are no longer necessary.

The group says that the proposed Fawley B coal-fired power station will not go ahead because the new distribution companies cannot give assurances that they will take its power; that a tax to support the nuclear power programme has since been proposed; and that the Government's own privatization proposals for the electricity industry provide for government funds to deal with unexpectedly large nuclear decommissioning costs.

It adds that in any case the 6 per cent price rise is unjustifiable. The increased target rate of return for the power industry adds only 3.5 per cent to prices.

It says that since fuel costs, which account for 60 per cent of the industry's costs, are stable, other costs must be increasing at about 10 per cent — a "much worse performance" by the CEGB than in 1987-88. "This cannot be an acceptable prelude to privatization."

The large industrial electricity users have also said that they will be unable to play their part in rectifying Britain's balance of payments problem if they continue to suffer unnecessary electricity price rises which damage their international competitiveness.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2167.88 (-1.25)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	30050.88 (+182.82)
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	2888.59 (+18.88)
Amsterdam	Amsterdam	285.4 (+2.3)
Sydney	Sydney	1484.1 (+0.9)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	1884.3 (+18.6)
General	General	5511.0 (+5.7)
Paris	Paris	411.9 (+4.6)
Zurich	Zurich	518.7 (+4.5)
FT-A All-Share	FT-A All-Share	915.52 (+2.1)
FT-100	FT-100	896.48 (+2.34)
FT-30	FT-30	163.3 (-0.8)
FT-100 Index	FT-100 Index	89.70 (-0.05)
FT-30 Index	FT-30 Index	87.48 (-0.09)

SEAD Bergains 103891
SEAD Volume 212.8m

INTEREST RATES

Lending Bank Base	13%
3-month interbank	13.12% (+1.2)
3-month eligible bills	12.12% (+1.2)
3-month Treasury	12.12% (+1.2)
US Prime Rate	10.5%
Federal Funds	8.5%
3-month Treasury	8.15% (+0.11)
30-year bonds	10.40% (+0.07)

CURRENCIES

Lending	New York
\$: £1.8005	£: \$1.8040
DM: \$3.9881	£: DM1.7770
SwF: \$2.9711	£: SwF1.4992
FF: \$1.3647	£: FF13.0885
Yen: \$24.347	£: Yen124.80
Index: 77.41	£: Index: 77.41
EDU: 50.849285	SDR: 50.7474221

GOLD

London Gold	AM \$417.55/-PM \$418.00/
Close	\$417.50-418.00/ (\$232.00-232.50)
New York	Comex \$418.70-419.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb)	\$15.10 bid (\$15.27)
Denotes latest trading price	
Denotes Friday's close	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

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● Stock market comment: general market 0898 121220; company news 0898 121221; active shares 0898 121225
● Calls charged at 5p for 8 seconds peak and 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Oil price rise fear after cut in UK output

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Oil traders are predicting an increase in spot oil prices today after the latest shut-in of 10 per cent of the output from the British sector of the North Sea.

The three producing platforms, the Shell-Eso Fulmar and Auk and the Britoil Clyde, which have lost their floating storage and export terminal, the supertanker Medora, account for about 10 per cent of Britain's daily output of 2.1 million barrels of oil.

The tanker broke its mooring during the Christmas holidays and at one point threatened to drift into the three oil platforms it serves. It was towed to Stavanger, Norway, with all its 38 crew safe.

The three platforms which used the Medora to store their oil have been shut down and it could be "months rather than weeks" before they can be brought back on stream.

A meeting of Shell-Eso and Britoil technical staff will be held in Aberdeen tomorrow to discuss the incident.

It is likely that a new mooring tower will have to be ordered to connect the sea-bed oil pipes to the storage tanker.

There is every sign that the

Medora could quickly be back on station, but the mooring system, which broke off at sea level and acted as a huge sea anchor to slow the drifting tanker, will have to be reconstructed.

It is believed the Department of Energy will order a considerably modified design after a detailed investigation into the incident.

At present most oil companies operating in the North Sea are receiving less than \$15 a barrel for their oil against \$30 two years ago, so any shut-down in production is less damaging to earnings at present.

The three oil companies involved are probably able to buy oil for their refineries from the Middle East at a lower price than they have to pay for North Sea crude.

In any event, daily production losses are covered by insurance policies, so the lossers could be the insurance industry and the Government, which will forego revenues. Coupled with production being lost while the Piper Alpha network of fields is out of full operation, about 20 per cent of North Sea output is now shut-in.

The incident could send

prices up today, according to Tokyo traders. Although only a few new deals were done in the world spot markets yesterday there are signs that prices could rise this week.

The world oil markets closed for Christmas with prices reaching their highest level for more than seven months.

Brent crude, the most widely traded oil on the spot markets, was quoted at \$15.30 for immediate lifting and cargoes for February delivery were only slightly lower. Less than a month ago Brent oil prices were well below the \$12 level.

West Texas Intermediate, the US benchmark crude oil, has risen to \$16.40 a barrel for February delivery, but the main Opec crude, Dubai, is still far short of the target price of \$18 a barrel.

Dubai crude has been changing hands for February delivery at \$12.85 and there is little sign that traders expect it to rise dramatically once the new Opec output quotas come into operation in the new year.

In Tokyo yesterday deals were being discussed at prices around the \$13.20 level for Dubai crude, with Brent reaching \$15.35.

American Brands lifted by talk of Unilever bid

By Our City Staff

Speculation is growing that a takeover bid worth more than \$10 billion (£5.55 billion) is being put together for American Brands — the Benson & Hedges cigarettes, Jim Beam whisky and office products group — after a further rise in the company's stock when Wall Street re-opened after the Christmas holidays.

It climbed a further 2 1/2% to \$70 1/2, making a 12 1/2%, or 22 per cent, gain in the past two business days, amid gathering talk of an imminent bid from Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch foods-to-detergents group.

The market whispers, which were fanned into life on Christmas Eve, suggested that Unilever, whose North American sales last year totalled

\$5.76 billion, generating an operating profit of \$448 million, was poised to launch a bid at up to \$90 a share.

However, a spokesman for Unilever, whose North American interests include Liptons, Chesebrough-Pond's and National Starch, said: "I'm afraid it is our policy never to comment on rumours."

American Brands started as American Tobacco more than a century ago, and owns Lucky Strike, Pall Mall and Carlton cigarettes, as well as Benson & Hedges and Silk Cut, the Gallaher brands in Britain.

But these days the company

also has big interests in drinks, financial services, office products, processed foods, soaps, hardware and security products. This year it successfully countered a \$5.5 billion bid from E-I Holdings with the now celebrated "Pac-Man" defence plan of launching a bid for the bidder. It also said yesterday that it was company policy not to comment on the activity of the company's stock or on speculation.

Unilever's last big acquisition was the \$3.1 billion takeover of Chesebrough-Pond's, the skin-care and consumer products group, completed in December 1986.

In New York last night traders said no other names of potential suitors were surfacing. One dealer said there was a run-up on orders for the stock but it was difficult to discern which firm was buying.

Move to allocate more cash for better data on economy

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

The Government is likely to divert more money towards securing accurate statistics of growth in the economy because of growing concern that the present figures are giving misleading signals.

It is also considering converting the Central Statistical Office from a public sector agency.

Ministers are not prepared, however, to increase overall public spending on statistics significantly, nor to place new burdens on business, on which the responsibility for providing the data largely rests.

The extra resources will be found by reducing the amount spent on some statistical series and spending more on others.

The response will get a mixed reception from the

Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee which in a report just before Christmas urged the Government to allocate more resources to improving official statistics generally. It said that the residual error between different sectors of the national accounts was only the worst of "several appalling discrepancies."

The efficiency report recently completed by the Cabinet Office, on which the Government's decisions are based, examined both technical statistical procedures and the institutional arrangements. It concluded that the balance of effort between collecting different series of statistics should be altered, with more attention to the national accounts and less to

some very detailed series.

It also questioned whether it was right for one department (Customs and Excise) to collect trade figures, another (Trade and Industry) to analyse them and a third (Central Statistical Office) to take overall responsibility for the balance of payments.

Impatience with the CSO has been mounting among some of its principal departmental customers. Although the CSO is nominally accountable to the Prime Minister it does not have its own departmental minister. Some members of the Cabinet believe that is the reason for the present problems.

The Cabinet Office report is expected to be published within the next few weeks. Economic View, page 23

Taylor guns for 'new' Armstrong team



One man and his dog: Wardle Storeys chairman Brian Taylor on a Christmas shoot with Gandalf, the retrieving Rottweiler

Wardle Storeys in fresh attack

By Michael Tate

Mr Brian Taylor, chairman of Wardle Storeys, the plastic sheeting to lifebelts and parachutes group, left a shoot in Norfolk over the Christmas holidays, to fire a fresh shot at his \$85 million bid target, Armstrong Equipment, the shock absorber group.

Accompanied by Gandalf, his 11 1/2 stone Rottweiler ("The only retrieving Rottweiler in existence, as far as I know, and trained by myself"), and armed with one of

his pair of Purdey shotguns, Mr Taylor took a potshot at Armstrong's "new" management which he said, had done "too little, too late."

Mr Taylor admitted that he expects to have begged precious few acceptances for his 155p-a-share bid by today's second closing date. Armstrong holders will naturally prefer to hear what their own chairman, Mr Roy Watts, has to say in his defence document, expected on Friday. The market believes Mr Watts is

capable of producing a profit forecast of more than £10 million, but Mr Taylor said that even a £10.5 million figure would leave his bid offering a higher prospective exit p/e ratio — between 13 and 14 — than recent comparable deals, such as Arvin's purchase of IT's engine parts division before Christmas.

Wardle Storeys has already prepared its final attacking document, due for dispatch early next week. This will focus on the Armstrong

management, which, it will claim, has only one new face, and will aim to show that by any of the performance yardsticks cited by Armstrong — such as stock turn, return on capital, gearing and operating profit — Wardle Storeys has done better.

Meanwhile, it looks less likely that a white knight will materialize, according to Mr Taylor. "With every day, I become more and more convinced that our bid fully values Armstrong," he said.

Conran refuses to meet Edelman

By CHIT Feltham

Storehouse, the high street retailing group run by Sir Terence Conran, has turned down an offer to meet Mr Asher Edelman, the American corporate raider who has built up a 5.24 per cent holding in the group.

Mr Edelman, who is based in New York, is understood to be angry at Storehouse's rejection. He also feels that Sir Terence Conran, Storehouse's chairman, delivered a personal snub by passing the affair to Mr Michael Julien, his chief executive, to handle.

Last night, one of Mr Edelman's advisers said: "I have no idea what his next step will be. He is now on his way to Switzerland."

Mr Edelman, in a move clearly aimed at embarrassing Storehouse, disclosed an ex-

change of letters. In his letter to Sir Terence on December 22, he said he had accumulated a substantial shareholding in Storehouse, the Habitat, BHS and Mothercare chain. He said he had been contacted on behalf of Mr Julien by Mr John Thornton of Goldman Sachs, Storehouse's new advisers, concerning his interest in the company.

In his letter, Mr Edelman said: "I told Mr Thornton that my interests were broad and that I would be willing to meet Mr Julien to discuss the full range of possibilities. Although Mr Thornton said that he would be back in contact with me shortly, I have not heard from him since."

"I would like to set up a meeting with you at your convenience to discuss what I consider to be very interesting possibilities to benefit Storehouse and its shareholders."

He received a four-line letter from Mr Julien saying the letter had been passed to him to deal with but that he could see "no useful purpose in meeting with you at this time."

There has been speculation that Mr Edelman has approached a number of big British retailers, including Woolworth Holdings, Sainsbury and Burton, to see if they would be interested in taking parts of Storehouse if he mounted a bid.



Conran: Letter passed on

Further expansion signalled in US food industry

GrandMet set to build on Pillsbury win

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Grand Metropolitan's success in its relentless pursuit of Pillsbury is likely to be the first step in a series of acquisitions in the US food industry, which will make it one of the dominant players in the North American market.

Wall Street analysts said that based on GrandMet's cash reserves and its aggressive management style, they expected the Pillsbury acquisition to be the foundation of a large expansion in the US and Canada.

"There are a number of regional food companies GrandMet could acquire and we would expect them to expand further in the US food business," said Mr George Rosenbaum, an industry specialist.

On completion of its \$5.7 billion (£3.1 billion) tender offer for Pillsbury, due to expire on January 3, GrandMet must, however, quickly inject more than \$200 million into the

sailing Burger King division to turn the company around, analysts said.

Revolving Burger King, in second place of US hamburger chains behind McDonald's, is the key to turning a profit from the Pillsbury acquisition.

It will require not only a hard-hitting national advertising campaign but also new management to institute quality control standards and the same level of service, coast to coast.

"They have to serve up the same Whopper in Hoboken, New Jersey that they sell in Minneapolis," said Mr Steven Carnes of Piper Jeffery.

This is a difficult assignment, in the opinion of food analysts, who noted that growth in the industry had slowed considerably and competition was fierce. The fast food industry expects annual growth of between 1 and 2 per cent next year and for 1990.

The GrandMet team, however, is highly regarded on Wall Street and is thought to be equal to the task.

Indeed, analysts are convinced Pillsbury will become a much more aggressive marketer under the management assembled by Mr Allen Shepherd, chairman of GrandMet, who outmanoeuvred Mr Philip Smith, Pillsbury's chairman, in his campaign for the US company.

Even before the takeover, Pillsbury was criticized for a conservative marketing style which failed to take advantage of the prominent shelf position it had in most US supermarkets. It failed to capitalize on the popularity and exposure of its Green Giant, Del Monte, Pillsbury dough and Jeno's lines by expanding these products and linking them with other new lines, analysts said. This was expected to change dramatically under GrandMet.

"Pillsbury clearly has some very undeveloped brand names, and

brand names are critical in the US market," said the Goldman Sachs analyst. By buying smaller, regional food companies and integrating these products into established Pillsbury lines, GrandMet stands to gain a much larger share of the US market. Analysts say GrandMet has the cash to expand even after executing the Pillsbury takeover.

But to achieve this GrandMet will have to improve morale and revitalize the management structure of Pillsbury, which has suffered from declining earnings and erratic leadership. It has had three chief executives in less than five years. Mr Smith inherited a demoralized company when he took over last July.

His long delay in responding to GrandMet's offer exacerbated matters, resulting in defections of senior management. Some of "the best and the brightest" defected to competitors such as General Mills, Frito Lay and General Foods," one analyst said.

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

The following revised rates of interest will apply from 1st January 1989 to Share and Deposit accounts currently offered by the Alliance & Leicester Building Society:

Net	Gross equivalent at 25% income tax rate
Investment Plus	
Balances £25,000 or over	
10.25% Interest annually	13.67%
9.85% Interest monthly	13.13%
Balances £10,000-£24,999.99	
9.90% Interest annually	13.20%
9.50% Interest monthly	12.67%
Balances £2,500-£9,999.99	
9.45% Interest annually	12.60%
9.05% Interest monthly	12.07%
Balances £1,000-£2,499.99	
9.15% Interest annually	12.20%
Gold Plus	
Balances £25,000 or over	
9.25% Interest annually	12.33%
8.95% Interest monthly	11.93%
Balances £10,000-£24,999.99	
8.95% Interest annually	11.93%
8.65% Interest monthly	11.53%
Balances £5,000-£9,999.99	
8.75% Interest annually	11.67%
8.45% Interest monthly	11.27%
Balances £2,500-£4,999.99	
8.40% Interest annually	11.20%
8.10% Interest monthly	10.80%
Balances £500-£2,499.99	
8.15% Interest annually	10.87%
BankSave Plus	
Interest annually	
8.40% Balances £10,000 or over	11.20%
7.90% Balances £2,500-£9,999.99	10.53%
6.90% Balances up to £2,499.99	9.20%
Cash Plus	
Interest annually	
8.15% Balances £2,500 or over	10.87%
7.15% Balances £500-£2,499.99	9.53%
6.65% Balances £1-£499.99	8.87%
MoneyBuilder Plus	
Interest annually	
7.15%	9.53%
ReadyMoney Plus	
Ordinary paid-up shares	
6.15% Interest half-yearly	8.20%
Ordinary Deposit Account	
Interest half-yearly	
5.90%	7.87%

Details of interest rate increases on all other accounts are available at your local branch.

Alliance & Leicester Building Society, Oakley Administration, Glen Road, Oakley, Leicestershire LE24 0PF

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY

TEMPUS

Time to turn away from gold and discover the virtues of base metals

Mining markets are happily saying goodbye to gold and turning to North American base metal companies.

While *The Times's* five mining shares for 1988 have performed well compared with both the gold price and more especially the FT Gold Mines Index, only three shares are up — and two down — to give the portfolio an average growth of 3.15 per cent.

The London gold price, which a year ago stood at \$486.50 and is now about \$417.75 (£231.67), showed a 14.1 per cent fall, while the portfolio's spread and the avoidance of any direct South African gold mining share saved it from the fate suffered by the FT Gold Mines Index — down by 46 per cent over the past 12 months.

The 1988 selections were Asarco, down 3.66 per cent; Ashton, down 3.39 per cent; Inspiration Resources, up 3.65 per cent; RTZ, up 17.43 per cent; and Western Mining, up 1.7 per cent.

This year will be remembered best for the excitement of the takeover battle by Minorco for Consolidated Gold Fields.

The fight is still only in round one and will run for some while yet. In turn, all the related shares (including Charter and Johnson Matthey) will continue to dance. Anglo American/De Beers in all its history is never known to have lost a fight, and ConsGold's defence will be no less spirited in 1989 than it was in 1988.

If the Minorco-ConsGold



Allen Born: producing profit

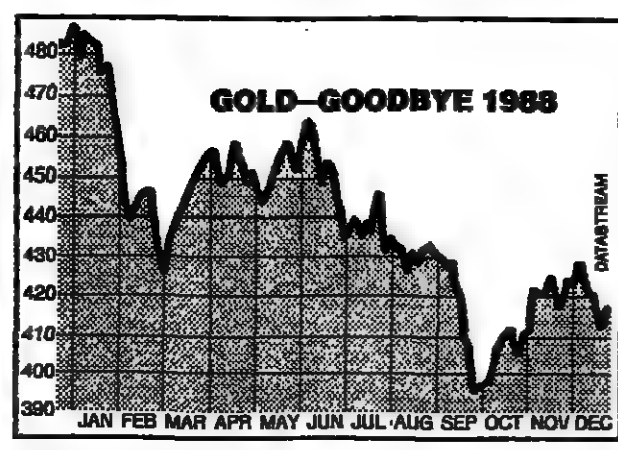
has done only one thing for mining markets, it has been to focus attention on the big and the great in the sector. But in selecting five shares for 1988, I have put the emphasis on those companies with important base metal interests.

Analysts are hardly complimentary about gold's prospects in the new year, and at this stage advise against any undue weight in gold. I agree. Their time may well come, but not yet.

The portfolio suggestions for 1989 are:

● **Amx (\$22).** Amx is no longer a dirty word. Investors have had time to monitor the actions of the revitalised executive team under Mr. Allen Born, and quarterly results and resumed dividend payments demonstrate that dreams can come true.

The group has strong exposure to aluminium, its coal interests are gathering strength,



and there is a kicker in its now quoted Amx Gold Inc.

All leading businesses are producing profits, and following strong nine-month figures, to end-September, the 1988 financial year ending December 31 should turn out to be one of progress after many years of depressed earnings.

There is every reason to expect higher dividends. ● **Cyprus Minerals (\$31½).** The copper price is likely to average about 105 cents a pound next year, compared with 118 cents in 1988.

The projections made by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in its recent survey, coupled with other demand forecasts, suggest a fairly flat performance from the metal.

But companies with copper connections are still making what one analyst calls "obscene profits" out of the metal, and should the copper price move up rather than down,

then copper-connected companies will be falling over themselves with cash.

Cyprus Minerals is now the second largest US producer, and as a result of a number of strategic moves the management has transformed prospects.

Other strings to its bow include molybdenum, coal and gold.

Quarterly reports issued so far this year suggest that when the 1988 financial year is ruled off, profits will have jumped dramatically from the \$26.2 million level seen in 1987.

The 1988 profits could turn out at \$140 million, and then they could be well above \$219 million in 1989.

● **Greenwich Resources (\$39).** After all its technical problems at the Gebel gold mine in the Sudan this year, with the temporary loss of the gold vein, and the subsequent loss of investment, which has seen the shares knocked to their lowest level ever, Greenwich

will either make or break the portfolio in 1989.

However, the group has some promising exploration activities in other parts of the world, including rich acreage in Venezuela (gold and diamonds), a producing gold operation in Australia, and exploration licences in Egypt.

It could take a while before investment sentiment is re-established, and the share price will remain shaky in the short term. However, there remains a reasonable foundation on which to place speculative hope.

● **Phelps Dodge (\$51½).** It is the largest US copper producer, and in turn a significant player in the base metals field.

The corporate objective is to reduce production costs to below 50 cents a pound, to diversify further into non-copper operations, and to increase gold production.

The investment boat may have already pulled away from the quay because the shares have been strong runners in December.

But in any portfolio, quality still counts.

● **Whim Creek (\$7p).** In spite of earlier comments about gold shares, Whim Creek, the Australian mining company, is included for yield support.

At the current price level a yield of 7.8 per cent is of considerable comfort even if the gold price is flat. And some modest exposure to gold is no bad thing, even in these markets.

Colin Campbell

GILT-EDGED

Cash looks best bet until the bull market stages comeback

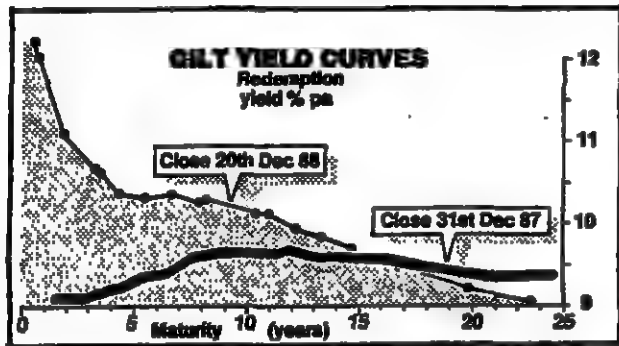
Any attempt to control one economic variable, or several, must lead to greater volatility in others. Thus Mr Lawson's attempt to produce a "soft landing" for the economy — to reduce inflation with only a gradual fall in economic growth — is likely to lead to substantial volatility in British interest rates and the value of sterling in 1989.

A clue to what 1989 has in store can be found in the gilt market in 1988.

The chart shows the current gilt yield curve and the curve on December 31 1987. The yield curve is a plot of yield on gilts against term to maturity, so it gives a measure of the cost per annum to the government of borrowing money for a given length of time. Equally it gives a measure of the return to the investor in government securities with a given term.

The contrast between the two curves could not be stronger. We have moved from a fairly flat curve to the current crisis shape, with very high short-term interest rates.

If one looks for the best-performing sector, then long index-linked have come top, with the best issue giving a total return of just under 14 per cent. The worst performers were the low coupon stocks, which were adversely affected by the reduction of higher rate tax to 40 per cent.



They gave a return of about 1½ per cent.

The yields at the long end have remained steady, because of the high level of public sector debt repayment and the consequent buying-in of gilts. Many long-term financial institutions are still avid buyers of these over-15 year gilts, but average maturities are shortening.

This strategy could be wrong, as there have already been a number of ultra-long corporate bond issues over the past few months and there may well be a lot more to come. Even 1.5 to 2 per cent over long gilts produces a cost of borrowing of 10.6 to 11.1 per cent, which compares favourably with base rates at 13 per cent. Thus the corporate sector is likely to fill in the gap in the bond market.

This suggests that, as in 1988, yields at the long end

will be relatively stable in 1989, with supply balancing demand. By contrast, yield volatility will continue at the short maturities.

These high short-term interest rates will keep sterling firm in early 1989. Eventually, however, more positive signs of a slowdown in Britain and abroad will emerge. At the point when the slowdown emerges, the interest rates can be allowed to fall.

This in turn is likely to make sterling vulnerable. Britain's balance-of-payments deficit is unlikely to improve significantly in 1989. If the protection of high interest rates diminishes, sterling could be hit, and this would force short rates up again.

Timing is uncertain and it is quite possible that it will be more than a year before short-term interest rates are finally on their way down. In the

short run, cash (or floating rate notes) yielding 13 per cent will be difficult to beat from the investor's point of view.

Once it is clear that yields can fall, it is quite likely that the yield curve will revert to its end-1987 shape. Thus, just as the over four to seven-year gilts underperformed on the way down, they will outperform on the way up.

This idea contradicts conventional wisdom that the longest stock will do best in a bull market. Conventional wisdom has not, however, been very good at explaining the dynamics of moves in individual gilts over the past few months, when price moves in shorts and longs have been typically about the same.

The long end will be stuck at its current level as supply from the corporate sector matches demand from institutions. Only a decisive fall in short yields would alter this. If this view is correct, investors should maintain a high level of cash initially in 1989. When the time comes for the bull phase — well into the year, one suspects — stocks with three to 10 years' maturity will do best.

Dr Richard Golding
Head of Bond Market
Research, Kleinwort
Benson

Sanderson agrees \$4m purchase

By Our City Staff

Sanderson Electronics, the USM-quoted computer systems supplier, has provisionally agreed a deal worth about \$4 million (£2.2 million) that will give it control of General Automation, a US group.

Under the terms of the proposed deal, GA will issue Sanderson with warrants to buy up to 51 per cent of the GA equity.

Sanderson will also provide GA with a \$1.75 million convertible loan. The conversion and warrant exercise prices are 70 cents a share.

Sanderson will also have the right to top up its stake in order to maintain its interest, and to nominate three of GA's six-man board.

Colin Campbell

ECONOMIC VIEW

Forecasting the future yet ignorant of today

The year 1988 is one economic forecasters will prefer to forget. At the beginning of the year the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development was writing about "the risk of a recession" if turmoil continued in financial markets. A year later it was writing that "economic conditions in the OECD area currently appear more buoyant than at any time since the early 1970s."

A pattern which appeared at the end of last year to be one of low growth becoming lower turned out to be one of quite rapid growth becoming faster still. In the shadow of the stock market crash the OECD was forecasting average growth in its member countries of 2.75 per cent in 1987 falling to 2 per cent in 1988. It now appears that growth in 1987 averaged 3.3 per cent while growth in 1988 is likely to be nearly double the previous forecast at 4 per cent.

The OECD's experience was paralleled by that of most other forecasters. In Britain, the budget forecast of 3 per cent growth is turning out at 4.5 per cent or more. Every new forecast in West Germany, which began the year as the laggard of Europe, projects higher output. Japan has vaulted over the problem of a higher dollar to grow by more than 7 per cent. And even the US will grow by nearly 4 per cent rather than under 3 per cent as expected.

Why did everyone get it so wrong? The conventional answer is that the world-wide relaxation of monetary policy in response to the stock market crash served to boost an economy which in the event was little affected by lower share prices. But this can hardly be the whole answer.

In most countries interest rates started to go up again almost before they had finished coming down. Evidently, the major economies were already growing faster at the time of the crash than most people suspected, but there were other factors which only gradually became evident.

The OECD in its *Economic Outlook*, published last week, has had the humility to look back at some of the reasons why its forecasts turned out to be so misleading. Policy changes cannot easily be blamed.

Fiscal policy was slightly more relaxed than assumed in Japan, Canada and France, but in the US and Britain it was, if anything, tighter with the US budget deficit turning out smaller than expected and the British surplus bigger.

Except in the US, monetary growth was faster than anticipated, but short-term interest rates were higher almost everywhere.

The main miscalculations were on the supply side. Britain is by no means the only country to have experienced a productivity miracle — though, starting from a lower base, it has been more pronounced here.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

US NOTEBOOK

Economy on course for steady growth as inflation mania proves unfounded

This has been a splendid year for the US and there are prospects of a continuation of steady economic growth with low inflation, a declining balance of payment deficit and a declining federal budget deficit in 1989.

Indeed, the US system is proving flexible and controlled, with growth in inflation contained.

While the "consensus" in 1988 has been frozen with terror at the prospect of accelerating inflation, the year has brought precious little in the way of fact to support a mania that has dogged the fixed income market all year.

By November, the producer price index was up 3.2 per cent on November 1987. By October, the consumer price index was 4.3 per cent above the level of October 1987.

By now the US economy will have experienced most of the inflationary effects of the huge money growth bulge that occurred between December 1984 and December 1986, when M1 rose 31.4 per cent and M2 rose 18.8 per cent.

Between December 1986 and November this year, both M1 and M2 rose about the same as

the increase in the rate of inflation (about 8 per cent). In the two years to December 1986, M1 rose four times the rate of inflation and M2 rose two and a half times the rate of inflation.

A drastic slowdown in money growth over the past two years is going to produce even slower inflation in 1989 and 1990. The slowing may be powerful enough to produce a similar effect in economic growth.

While the analysts and economists who make up the "consensus" have been arguing, wrongly, that there is going to be a marked rise in the inflation rate, market participants have been bitterly engaged in a huge operation of stripping US bonds.

This year, something like \$40 billion (£22.18 billion) of US bonds have been stripped and have been selling quickly. By now, there is a negligible stock of stripped US bonds. These stripped bonds are sold in two parts — the zero coupon bond and the coupons.

Zero coupon bonds have been selling very strongly. This tells us that investors have not believed the

"consensus" forecast, but instead have been stocking up on zero coupon paper in a big way. The zero coupon paper has sold well because there is a widespread expectation that medium and long-term interest rates in the US are going to fall and the dollar has reached a medium-term low.

Zero coupon US paper is therefore attractive to domestic and foreign buyers alike. Large gains can be made on zero coupon paper when interest rates fall.

From what we know of the action in the market for strips, the market participants have believed Merrill Lynch's forecast that medium and long-term interest rates in the US are going to be much lower by the end of next year than they are this year. However, we also know that industrial expansion is continuing and that there is a good prospect that expansion in general will continue into 1989 at a moderate pace.

Several forces may allow for a continuation of the recent growth of the US economy and of the industrial sector.

● Low money growth has led to conditions of price stability

and stable medium to long-term interest rates. The yield on the long bond was 8.89 per cent on July 31 last year and was 8.96 per cent on December 13, this year.

● The deregulated financial markets have been an important influence during the six-year expansion now completed. Any tendency for inflation or deflation to get out of hand has been immediately countered by a rise or fall of bond prices, deterring large cyclical swings.

● An under-valued currency. The US is cheap — both in terms of assets and of tradeable goods.

● An apparently substantial available labour supply.

● Modest increases in earnings and prices.

It is desirable continually to re-examine long-held assumptions. One is that a trade cycle is "inevitable."

But low money growth extending back two years, coupled with the other factors mentioned, may allow the US to continue to grow modestly, but continuously.

Maxwell Newton
New York

Easing the pain with champagne

After 1987, the year of the acronym, which was started by universal use of the term yuppie, 1988 turned out to be a year of depression and rationalization. At its outset, the City struggled to come to terms with the crash, volumes continued to trail way behind expectations and talk turned to the redundancies that must surely follow. Midland Bank duly became the first to pull out of equities, in the early spring, and many other firms have since announced numerous redundancies. Member firms also had to struggle to comprehend the Financial Services Act. As *The Lawyer* magazine asked: "What do you do once you have read the Financial Services Act and made sense of its provisions? Answer: Read it again — you can't have read it properly."

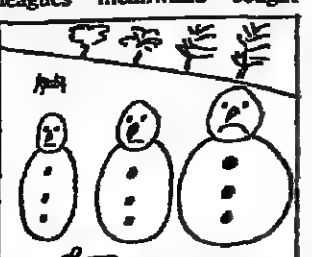
Brokers were frantically trying to persuade their clients to complete their client agreement letters by offering cases of champagne and free £1,000 holidays. But the mood was not so austere that it put a complete stop to the City's champagne-swilling traditions. Deric Homes, known in the market as the "White Rat," celebrated his 50th birthday surrounded by dozens of bottles of the stuff in a St. Swithin's Lane wine bar and several other City personalities, although beyond the first flush of youth, turned their attentions to love and matrimony. It was the year that saw the betrothal of

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

And goodbye to all that

One board of directors which won't be seen to the back of 1988 is Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers. The firm was hit early on by an embarrassing stream of defections and became the butt of scores of City jokes. Clearly unamused, John MacFarlane, the managing director, threatened staff with the sack if they dared to talk to *The Times City Diary*.

Phillips & Drew director Geoffrey Redman-Brown, at the age of 51, Peter Thompson, who retired as BZW's chief equity strategist at the age of 60, and Tim Congdon, chief UK economist at Shearson. Their younger colleagues meanwhile sought



"Apparently, inflation is next year's biggest worry"

medical preparations for pimples as the chocolate war raged between Britain and Switzerland for control of Rowntree, showered the Square Mile in sugar-rich goodies. And the year did have its lighter moments — such as when a Phillips & Drew video entitled *The Facts of Life* was impounded by Irish customs officials who thought it must be a pornographic movie. They must have been sorely disappointed.

● As scores of middle-aged men, who had once been partners of firms, deserted the Square Mile in 1988, complaining that it had all changed for the worse, their fears were confirmed in August when Nigel Athanas, the Government broker, dressed in his traditional top hat, was refused admission to the floor of the Stock Exchange by an over-zealous waiter because he did not have the right pass to prove his identity.

Owed to 1988

A poem that has been doing the rounds in the Square Mile sums up 1988 more succinctly than almost anything else.

The year's been an awful bore!

Sideways markets, volumes slack — half the City on its back.

Narrowed spreads and spirals flagging.

Steel no steel (at least for stagging).

Brokers watch, with furrowed brows, as profits sink like Barlow Clowes.

Ruins each Porsche, which proudly sat

'Outside every Docklands flat;

Dazzled from many a drinking-bout

Your yuppie's now a lager lout.

See him, failed, tired, and bawzy.

Shedding tears in his Jacuzzi:

Life's no longer full of glee — He's on the shelf at 23.

Life is cast away — no dates for lunch or squash today.

Rolex sold, wine-bar passed,

Gucci briefcase pawned at last.

Failure now his footsteps dogging.

Vain the workouts, vain the jogging.

Sits he friendless, lost, alone — They've repossessed his Volvo.

And Father Christmas, while we sleep,

Hears older brokers' children weep.

Mary a half-starved lass or loutie, whispers: "What's a bonus, Daddy?"

Dad, as empty stockings wait,

Is working out his mortgage rate.

Carol Leonard

Maybox bid meeting

By Rosemary Unsworth

Maybox, the public unquoted company which runs six of London's theatres, is to hold an extraordinary meeting by the end of next month to confirm acceptance for the £2.50 a share (£7.1 million) offer by Chesterfield Properties. There is also a £3-a-share offer from Mr Robert Holmes a Court's Stoll Moss group, which runs the London Palladium and 11 other theatres.

Chesterfield is claiming irrevocable acceptances for 77.7

per cent of the shares held by Maybox's 50 shareholders. Sixty per cent of Maybox shares are controlled by six institutions, two of which have not irrevocably accepted. Another 15 per cent are held by two chief executives, Mr Stephen Waley-Cohen and Mr Bill Freedman.

Equity, the actors' union, has protested that control of Maybox by Stoll Moss would give it almost half the West End theatre seats.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY

Interim: Anchor International Fund (amended).
Finals: Maximprint.

TOMORROW

Interim: Flexello Castors & Wheels, Stavert Zigmala.

Finals: John Williams of Cardiff.

FRIDAY

Interim: Royal Trust Dollar Income Fund (second interim dividend).
Finals: Bermuda International Road Fund.

NOTICE TO CHASE MANHATTAN VISA CARD HOLDERS

INTEREST RATE

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. announces an increase in the monthly rate of interest charged to Chase Manhattan Visa Card holders from 1.53% to 1.74% (equivalent to an APR of 22.9% for purchases and typically 23.7% for cash advances) with effect from 4th January 1989. The rate of interest on credit balances is also increased from 8% p.a. to 9% p.a. effective from the same date.

From and including that date the new rate will be applied to all balances on which interest accrues. The cash advance service charge remains unaltered at 1.5% of the amount withdrawn.

Credit Card Agreements (and in particular condition 6 in the Conditions of Use) are amended accordingly. This notice only applies to card agreements governed by English Law. Further information can be obtained from: Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A., Visa Centre, Dunfermline KY99 4AE.

CHASE

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
Incorporated with limited liability under the laws of the United States of America

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Capitalization and change on week

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin today. Dealings end January 13. Settlement day January 16. Settlement day January 23.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (ns) denotes Alpha Stocks.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Cash or Div
1	Aus New 2	Banks/Discount	
2	Warren SG	Banks/Discount	
3	Wolfschlag Risk	Chemicals/Plas	
4	ML Hdg	Industrials L-R	
5	Walt	Paper/Print/Adv	
6	FKJ Balcob (ns)	Electricals	
7	Ward White	Drugs/Pharm	
8	Ashley Group	Foodstuffs	
9	AAH	Industrials A-D	
10	Thomson	Foodstuffs	
11	NMC Group	Industrials L-R	
12	Ash & Lacey	Industrials A-D	
13	Neal (J)	Industrials L-R	
14	Pittington (ns)	Industrials L-R	
15	Arington Socs	Property	
16	Robertson	Industrials L-R	
17	Bredon	Property	
18	Claydon	Property	
19	EIS	Industrials E-K	
20	Young 'A'	Breweries	
21	Granada (ns)	Industrials E-K	
22	Heptworth	Industrials E-K	
23	Free Security	Property	
24	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	
25	Johnson Math	Industrials E-K	
26	Drummond	Textiles	
27	Autwoods	Building/Roads	
28	Sirard	Textiles	
29	Stitchley	Industrials S-Z	
30	Underwoods	Drugs/Pharm	
31	Calderhead Robby	Building/Roads	
32	Jordan (Thomas)	Industrials E-K	
33	Spring Ram	Industrials S-Z	
34	Berkley Opt	Building/Roads	
35	Haywood Williams	Building/Roads	
36	Morrell (ns)	Industrials S-Z	
37	Whitson	Industrials S-Z	
38	Batock Johnson	Building/Roads	
39	Lawrence (Walter)	Building/Roads	
40	ASW	Industrials A-D	
41	Low & Bonar	Industrials L-R	
42	Allied Colloids	Chemicals/Plas	
43	Anglia TV 'A'	Leisure	
44	Gours Group	Paper/Print/Adv	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS

Stock exchange
Index

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1000000	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1000000	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

UNDATED

1000000	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDEX-LINKED

1000000	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BREWERIES

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FOODS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

DRAPERY, STORES

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ELECTRICALS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	Price	Change	Div	Yield
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
1000000	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

INDUSTRIALS A-D

4,183,000	Loss	88	-4	1.3	1.3
100,000	CG-Station	88	-4	1.3	1.3
32,000	Trans	719	-8	1.3	1.3
32,000	Trans	719	-8	1.3	1.3
34,000	Trans	719	-8	1.3	1.3
34,000	Trans	719	-8	1.3	1.3
1,040,000	Trans	719	-8	1.3	1.3
32,000	Trans	719	-8	1.3	1.3
1,040,000	Trans	719	-8	1.3	1.3
1,040,000	Trans	719	-8	1.3	1.3
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1,040,000	Trans	719	-8	1.3	1.3
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Bonanza Boy leads another field day for Pipe and Scudamore

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Bonanza Boy landed a major public gamble when romping home by 12 lengths from Run And Skip, the 1985 winner, in the Coral Welsh National at Cheltenham yesterday.

The Thinker, the 1987 Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, covered himself with glory by finishing third, attempting to concede 22lb to Bonanza Boy and 21lb to the runner-up.

The widely-cheered victory of the 9-4 favourite was the second leg of a four-timer for the all-conquering team of Peter Scudamore and Martin Pipe.

"This has been Bonanza Boy's target all season," said the record-breaking Welling-ton trainer afterwards. "I told everyone that if there was such a thing as a certainty in a race as tough as the Welsh National, this was it. It's all down to the horse and the brilliant Peter Scudamore. He spent hours schooling him to restore his confidence."

Scudamore settled Bonanza Boy down behind the leaders as Midnight Madness and Run And Skip cut out the early running. At this stage the Thinker and Aquilifer were towards the rear of the field.

The moment of truth came round the final turn when Run And Skip and Bonanza Boy went clear of their rivals jumping the fifth fence from

home. The Thinker was in a challenging position, but Aquilifer was losing touch.

Quickly forging ahead, the favourite won unchallenged. The Thinker finished 25 lengths away in third place, followed by Border Lad, Midnight Madness and Torside.

Aquilifer was pulled up before the third fence from home. "He just died under me," Graham Bradley said. "There must be something amiss."

Bonanza Boy was a handicapper certainty if judged on the form he showed in the autumn of 1987, when he beat Ballyhane by four lengths at Ascot, but he subsequently lost his confidence.

Transferred to Pipe by his owner Steve Dunster this summer, the seven-year-old had given clear evidence of his rejuvenation when winning by 20 lengths at Newton Abbot in November.

Bonanza Boy is now quoted at 20-1 for the Grand National. "He could go anywhere and the National certainly isn't ruled out," said the trainer.

"I think that basically he's just a handicapper. Every win is still a big thrill, though. And I now know what Jenny Pittman felt like when she won three of these."

The trainer then said that Strands Of Gold had fully recovered from the effects of

his heavy fall at Ascot and that the Hennessy winner will now be aimed at the Anthony Milleday Peter Cazalet Memorial Chase at Sandown on Saturday week.

The Thinker is now a 10-1 chance to repeat his Gold Cup victory. Although it would have been even more encouraging to have seen him finish closer to Run And Skip, the 10-year-old is now clearly on course for Cheltenham.

"He took the honours of the race," Alan Merriam said. "He just tired under the weight in the going at the third last."

Pipe and Scudamore's relentless march forward is becoming a case for the Monopoles Commission.

With only half of the season gone, the jockey, with 109 winners already to his credit, must be in with a sporting chance of becoming the first National Hunt jockey to ride 200 winners in a season.

The trainer, after completing a five-timer with Pertemps Network at Wolverhampton, is now on the 99 mark. Pipe has no runners today but several possibilities at his local track, Taunton, tomorrow.

The previous fastest hundred by a trainer was recorded by Michael Dickinson on March 8, 1983.

Pipe's spectacular rise to fame began at Cheltenham in 1981 when Baron Blakeney gave the stable its first — and as yet only — victory at the National Hunt Festival in the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle.

Yesterday Enemy Action became 16-1 joint-favourite with Kithchi, Vayra and Nomadic Way for this season's four-year-old championship when storming home by 12 lengths from Magnus Pym in the Final Junior Hurdle. "He loved the heavy ground and is on target for Cheltenham," said the trainer.

Pipe's other two winners were Fu's Lady and Elegant Isle. Fu's Lady, who had been Scudamore's 100th winner of the season at Haydock and who was giving Bonanza Boy's owner a double, will now be rested after recording her fourth victory off the reel in the Wisecore Handicap Chase.



Cheltenham bound: Kribensis and Richard Dunwoody stretch clear over the last flight to win the Top Rank Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park yesterday

Kribensis shows title sparkle

By Graham Rock

Kribensis maintained his unbeaten record with a smooth two-length defeat of Floyd in the Top Rank Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park yesterday, and remains clear favourite for the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle.

Hills clipped the winner from 11-4 to 5-2 for the big race at Cheltenham and, while Kribensis did not impress all his critics, he ran out a decisive winner, and has not put a foot wrong this season.

Michael Stoute will now give Kribensis a brief rest before running Sheikh Mohammed's grey in one of the trials for the Champion Hurdle. "It wouldn't worry me if he didn't run again before Cheltenham. He's a very easy horse to train. If the weather was bad and the horses are held up, it will worry me less than any of them."

For the first time in his six races over hurdles, Kribensis jumped like a champion. Floyd, a confirmed front-runner, set a sensible pace under Simon Sherwood but was joined by Sprouton Boy before half-way, with Kribensis close behind.

The novice Wishlon improved rapidly to deprive that pair of the advantage three flights out, but Kribensis quickening to lead at the second last, soon put daylight between himself and Floyd, and was not

hard-riden to maintain his advantage to the line.

"He's still learning the job," Stoute said. "His education has been very smooth, but you must remember that he hasn't met the best yet."

Floyd did enough to keep his place in the Champion Hurdle field and Ron Sneyd was delighted by the performance of Wishlon, who finished third, four lengths behind the runner-up.

Richard Dunwoody, rider of Kribensis, was impressed by his mount yesterday and Stoute hopes that the partnership will remain intact for the Champion Hurdle. However, Dunwoody is also the regular rider of Celtic Chief, one of the second favourites for the big race. "It's too early to make a decision yet — there's still plenty of time," Dunwoody said.

In the parade ring before the Rank Motoway Services Novices' Chase, Nohamudun, the 9-4 favourite, was sweating profusely and looked ill at ease. Facing only two rivals, including General Right, who fell four fences from home, Nohamudun jumped and ran sluggishly. Nonetheless, he moved up to join Bilcol Blues early in the straight, seemingly going the better.

However, after jumping the second last with the leader, Nohamudun found little when let down by Locum Wyr. The pair rose as one at the final fence but Bilcol Blues paid the price for getting too close to the obstacle, leaving Nohamudun to come home alone.

Jockey Ronnie Beggan thought Bilcol Blues would have kept his feet, a view shared by most onlookers. Panto Prince was an impressive winner of the Who Framed Roger Rabbit Handicap Chase at Kempton Park yesterday.

Desert Orchid thrived

Desert Orchid returned to David Elsworth's Whistler stable in fine form after his exhilarating win in the King George VI Rank Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day (George Roe writes).

"He's marvellous," Elsworth said yesterday. "Absolutely jumping and kicking. The plan is still to keep thinking in terms

of races such as the Victor Chandler Handicap at Ascot next month, and the Gallop-borough Chase at Sandown in February."

Elsworth has planned a winter break in Australia late next month, as has Desert Orchid's owner, Richard Burridge, after which Cheltenham Festival plans are likely to be on the agenda.

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Midnight Count for festival

Midnight Count jumped magnificently to win by eight lengths from Somerled in his eagerly-awaited seasonal reappearance in the Cardross Chase at Wetherby yesterday.

Winning trainer Josh Gifford said: "There's only one plan now — the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham. I wouldn't even mind if he didn't race again before the festival."

Nigel Tinkler could not find a jockey for Leon in the Bramham Novices' Handicap Hurdle to ride the horse to victory himself.

The Malton trainer, whose public rides these days are normally restricted to a few on the flat, said: "I was only fourth choice, but I'll make a comeback."

Leon was completing a 59-1 training double for Tinkler, following Bright Alsie's success in the Bradford Novices' Hurdle.

Dryer, who had taken the season's Bright Alsie but missed the ride on Leon when claimed by Jimmy Fitzgerald, completed a 59-1 double on Fragrant Dewa, who beat the heavily-backed Young Scaugh by two lengths in the Long Marston Handicap Hurdle.

Midnight Count jumped magnificently to win by eight lengths from Somerled in his eagerly-awaited seasonal reappearance in the Cardross Chase at Wetherby yesterday.

Winning trainer Josh Gifford said: "There's only one plan now — the Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham. I wouldn't even mind if he didn't race again before the festival."

Nigel Tinkler could not find a jockey for Leon in the Bramham Novices' Handicap Hurdle to ride the horse to victory himself.

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Have A Barney reaps reward for consistency

From Our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin

By tradition, Arthur Moore's jumpers do not reach their peak until Christmas and Have A Barney duly managed to reverse earlier form with Hungry Har in the Flinders Handicap Chase at Leopardstown yesterday.

The winner and Fethrin Hill Lad scored 3-1 joint-favourites and the race ended accordingly with Fethrin Hill Lad duly providing the last and most dangerous challenge to Have A Barney, who battled on the better to win by half a length.

The winner has been splendidly consistent, finishing out of the first four only twice in 19 runs under National Hunt rules. Shannon Spray, runner-up to Roark in this year's running of The Ladbrokes, put herself right

in the picture for next month's renewal when she led from start to finish to win the Flinders Anniversary Hurdle by 20 lengths. Shannon Spray, scoring for the fourth time, was bought as an unbroken three-year-old for just 3,000 guineas.

Another live contender for The Ladbrokes emerged at Limerick where Kilmall, steepled over hurdles since finishing unplaced in the Sun Alliance Hurdle in March, carried top weight to victory in the Racing Club Handicap Hurdle.

With David Elsworth electing not to send Barnbrook again for today's Black and White Whisky Champion Chase, Weather The Storm is fabled to repeat last year's win.

FOOTBALL: FORWARD STARTS A BATTLE TO PROVE HIS FITNESS AND MANAGER FINISHES THE YEAR WITHOUT A JOB

Fashanu takes the first step towards reviving his career

By Ian Ross

Justin Fashanu's belief that he is capable of resuming his career, which ended three years ago, was given more substance yesterday when he trained with Manchester City.

At the invitation of Mel Machin, the City manager, Fashanu joined the senior squad for a light work-out and said that he was hopeful of securing a contract with an English club in the New Year.

"My future is still undecided. I know Mel very well and I would obviously be interested in playing for a club like Manchester City. First, I must prove my fitness," he said.

The former Norwich City and Nottingham Forest forward was forced to retire from professional football in 1985 by a serious knee injury.

But after 12 months of intensive treatment in a leading American rehabilitation clinic he believes he is nearing fitness.

Machin was reluctant to discuss Fashanu's long-term prospects. "It is still far too early to say what will happen."

"At the moment it is simply a case of having a good look at Justin to see whether or not he has fully recovered from the injury problems which forced him out of the game," he said.

"He has told me that his knee is now perfectly all right but we will just have to wait and see."

"I am fully aware of Justin's ability, having worked alongside him at Norwich. He was a £1 million footballer and has the sort of qualities that I like to see in a striker," he added.

Fashanu, the elder brother of Wimbledon's John, had been expected to link up with Leeds United on his return to England, but he changed his plans after Machin arranged for him to fly from London to Manchester.



Looking to the future: Justin Fashanu at work with Tony Book, the Manchester City trainer

Award for van Basten crowns Dutch year

Milan (AP) — Marco van Basten, of The Netherlands, said yesterday that he was "happy and proud" to have been named the 1988 winner of the "Ballon d'Or," the award given by a French magazine to the best European player of the year.

Van Basten, aged 24, a forward for the Dutch national team and AC Milan, the Italian league champions, was congratulated by his club colleagues as they resumed training at Milan.

Van Basten was the leading scorer at the European Championship in West Germany last summer and recovered from injury in time to play in a few, decisive matches with Milan in the Italian championship.

He is Milan's leading scorer in the European Cup this season and has scored four times in the

Italian championship, despite the team's disappointing start.

Van Basten said: "The award is all the more appreciated because it came following a difficult year in which I was faced with a mixture of joy and bitterness."

In the voting for the "Ballon d'Or" (Golden Football), Van Basten narrowly beat his Dutch and club colleagues, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard. Another player from Milan, the Italian sweeper, Franco Baresi, placed eighth.

Arrigo Sacchi, the manager of Milan, said: "It's a recognition to the Netherlands team which won the European title and its best player, van Basten. Milan's line-up weighed on the final decision to award it to him."

Barcelona told that Gullit is not for sale

Rome (Reuters) — Silvio Berlusconi, the president of AC Milan, has rejected an approach from the Spanish club, Barcelona, to buy the Dutch midfielder, Ruud Gullit.

Berlusconi told the newspaper, Gazzetta dello Sport yesterday that Barcelona's vice-president, Juan Gaspart, had telephoned him recently to ask whether Milan, who are the Italian league champions, were prepared to negotiate for Gullit's transfer.

"I gave him the same answer as I did last summer when Gaspart telephoned to ask for van Basten. I told him that Gullit is not available at any price or for any player in exchange," Berlusconi said.

Gullit, the European footballer of the year last season, joined AC Milan for £5 million from PSV Eindhoven.

Nicholl calls Clarke back to Southampton

Colin Clarke, Southampton's £1 million-rated Northern Ireland international forward, is caught in a tug of loyalty after finishing a month's loan with neighbouring Bournemouth.

Clarke, who gained his sixteenth international cap against Spain last week, has scored twice since returning to Dean Court and teaming up with the former England international, Luther Blissett.

He admits he loves the Dorset side and relished the chance to step out in front of the crowd three weeks ago, when he scored after coming off the bench against Blackburn Rovers in his first game.

Clarke scored 35 goals in his one season with Bournemouth before moving to Southampton for £400,000 two years ago, but he turned to his old club for first-team action this season when he failed to gain a place in Chris Nicholl's championship-chasing line-up. The loan period ended on Monday when he scored the goal in the 1-0 victory over Leicester City.

Nicholl said: "The month's loan is now over and Colin will be coming back to us. Our squad is not strong enough that we can afford to do without a player like him, especially with so many matches coming up."

Harry Redknapp, the Bournemouth manager, whose side

have not lost in the five games played since they signed Blissett and recruiting Clarke, said yesterday: "I would have liked to borrow him for another month but it is up to Chris Nicholl."

"I got on very well with Colin, and since he came here he has scored two great goals which have given us points."

Robert Codner, the Brighton midfielder, will miss three matches after damaging ankle ligaments in the 3-1 win over Crystal Palace at the Goldstone Ground. Codner, a £115,000 signing from Barnet, had just returned to the team after being suspended for three matches.

Everton's latest casualty is their £250,000 midfielder, Stuart McCall, who was injured in the Boxing Day game against Middlesbrough. Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, said yesterday: "Stuart took a knock on his side, but we won't know how serious it is until the injury has had time to settle down."

McCall says Radcliffe and Sharp on the casualty list as they prepare to play Coventry at home on Saturday and Nottingham Forest away on Monday.

Wolverhampton Wanderers were yesterday hit by a mystery virus, with six players — Ball, Kendall, Downing, Robinson, Venus and Thompson — suffering from sore throats.

The gates close on Coakley

By Dennis Shaw

Tommy Coakley was yesterday dismissed as manager of Walsall. The club's 3-1 home defeat by Oxford on Boxing Day, one of a succession of body blows since his promotion from the third division, prompted an emergency board meeting and the decision to dismiss Coakley and his assistant, Gerry Sweeney.

Two factors influenced the decision: the club is heading back to whence it came and declining gate receipts are making the situation even more precarious.

Coakley has increasingly incurred adverse reaction and things were getting worse. The chairman, Barrie Blower, said: "It was not those fans who spat at the manager who cost him his job. It was the ones who stayed away."

"The decline in gates was beginning to undermine the financial stability of the club and this could not be allowed to go on. The Oxford defeat was a most humiliating one at holiday time in front of our home crowd."

The Fellows Park manager had recently been given a reprieve until some time in the new year, depending on results, but the completion of an all-time record sequence of 11 successive Cup and League defeats changed all that.

Coakley, one of the most decent and reasonable men to grace the management business since he was introduced as an "unknown" by the former club owner, Terry Ramsden, expected yesterday. "Had I not won promotion last season, I would have lost my job long before this," he said. "Going up kept me in work. Now I want to remain in the game."

The quietly spoken Scot felt that he had been placed in a vicious circle by an earlier board ultimatum stating, in effect: "Improve results, or else."

He explained: "The pressure on the players of their trying to keep me in the job was too much for them."

Undoubtedly a big factor in Walsall's inability to achieve results in the second division was the £600,000 sale of David Kelly, the Republic of Ireland forward, to West Ham, a loss over which he had no control.

Walsall are to advertise for a replacement. Mark Lawrenson and Terry Yorath were last night regarded as possibilities to fill the £300,000-a-year post.

Back in the fold

Baghdad (Reuters) — Kuwait beat Iraq 2-0 in an international football match yesterday — the first Iraq win in Iraq since FIFA, the world governing body, lifted a four-year ban imposed because of the Gulf war.

HOCKEY

Sturdy striking by Francis is fruitful

By Sydney Friskin

Cheam..... 1
President's XI..... 4

David Francis, Surbiton's short corner specialist, made three conversions yesterday at Cheam where the President's XI defeated the club first team in the annual Boxing Day festival match.

Tony Bennett, the club president relying more youth than experience, added yet another link in a long-running chain of successes in a game played every year in memory of the late Richard Holland, a former hockey correspondent of The Daily Telegraph.

The coaching by Ian Fawcett, a former Surrey county player, could also have influenced the team's convincing victory.

Apart from the effective striking by Francis at short corners the speed of the President's men was a telling factor which put Cheam three goals behind by the end of the first half. If they had seized their chances in the last 10 minutes victory for the opposition might not have been quite so emphatic.

The President's team had five short corners in the first half from which they scored twice. Francis was unsuccessful at his first attempt. Frost in goal having saved well in the fifth minute, two minutes later Francis scored with a crashing shot after a perfect stop by Hunt and added another in similar fashion. A chance to improve on this advantage was lost when Reay-Jones put a shot over the top from Penfold's pass.

Cheam's sporadic raids in the first 20 minutes looked ineffective, but seven minutes before the interval they launched their first constructive move which

was started by Champion, developed by Glasford and terminated by David Bennett who just missed the mark. Almost on half time Williams, running at high speed on the right set up a quarter for Penfold to score the third goal.

Cheam's forwards settling into a more constructive pattern immediately after the resumption of play forced three quick short corners which came to nothing because of difficulty in stopping the hit from the line. Guy Marchant, running fast through the middle earned the President's side a short corner and Francis scored his third goal on the hour.

From that moment the home side stepped into a higher gear and the President's defence was suddenly given a lot of work to do. Habib, in goal, saved at close quarters from Bennett who almost immediately sent Annabel away on the left to score a well taken goal.

Inspired by their success Cheam came on strongly and Pettifer who had relieved Phillip McGuire on the left wing came close to a score with a shot which was well smothered by Habib. A shot by Annabel went astray before the President's XI needed the boat and emerged comfortable winners.

Cheam are third from the bottom in the Pizza Express London League with only one win and two draws from 10 matches. All their home games are played on grass but they hope to have their own artificial surface in the near future.

CHEAM: M Frost, P Suck, M Lees, S Champion, J Fawcett, A Gower, J Bennett, D Bennett, M Annabel, P Wymann, P McGuire, R Penfold, D Williams, G Marchant, R Reay-Jones, H Hunt, N Penfold.

Umpires: K Harrison and C Burton (Southern Counties).

VOLLEYBALL

EVA hopes for the best

The English Volleyball Association (EVA) could hardly have picked more illustrious participants than those that will assemble at the Rivermead Leisure Centre in Reading on Sunday for the annual New Year invitation women's tournament (Roddy Mackenzie writes).

China and Cuba, ranked No. 1 and No. 2 respectively in the world, will join Peru, the Olympic silver medal-winner, and Czechoslovakia, the European bronze medal-winner, at this unlikely venue.

Credible though it may be for the EVA to collect such an array of talent (it is the third year they have done so) there is precious little the organizers can do to guarantee that the respective countries will

Sporting exiles: footballer Gary Lineker talks to Simon Barnes

Speaking the same language

Abroad is unutterably bloody and foreigners are fiends. So said Uncle Matthew in the Nancy Mitford book, and he spoke for all England, and probably most of the rest of the world as well. East, West, home's best: people go abroad quite a lot these days, but mostly to reinforce that perception. They go to foreign lands, but take places like Leicester in their baggage.

Not everyone. For some people, Abroad is the land of opportunity: the place where they can become more truly themselves. The freedom, the unfamiliarity of absolutely everything, the spice of dislocation: all these things harden resolution and make life a more thrilling proposition. Exile was once a form of punishment, but for some people, whether you are talking about personal life or career, exile is a Great Leap Forward.

"I loathe Abroad, nothing would induce me to live there," Uncle Matthew said. "And as for foreigners, they are all the same and they make me sick." English football is littered with sad tales of sporting exiles who would endorse all that Uncle Matthew says from the bottoms of their hearts: footballers who set out on the road to fame and fortune to the sound of trumpets, and came slinking back with their tails between their legs. The money was a nice idea, but the trouble is, Abroad is always full of foreigners, is it not?

Blissett, Hughes, Chapman, and now Ian Rush. Rush went to Italy to play for Juventus, to lead their attack as the deadliest striker in all Europe. He came back sadly diminished: a lost Welsh boy who couldn't cope, his confidence in tatters after the nightmare of Abroad.

It is tempting to be frightfully snooty and patronising. What do you expect, a chap from that class, and all the provincialism that that kind of background implies? One imagines, no doubt unfairly, poor Rushie locked in his hotel room gloomily pouring HP Sauce on to his spaghetti and wondering if he could persuade them to heat up his fish fingers.

But provincialism is not a matter of class, it is a matter of temperament. Let us take Gary Lineker, of Barcelona, England, Everton and, more than anything else, of Leicester. "It never crossed my mind to go abroad," he said. "I've always been a homesy sort of lad, with my football and my cricket."

But when he left for Spain in 1986, he did not take Leicester in his baggage. How about this for adaptation? Earlier this year, he was asked to join the commentary team on Spanish television. He thought he would have the expert summariser role, and would be required to speak four or five times in each half. But that's not how they do it. They were expected to converse throughout the match, sharing the microphone 50-50 with the commentator. All in Spanish, naturally. "After that, I felt I could cope with anything in Spanish."

This, you will agree, is not bad. The more so when you consider that Lineker left school at 16, with the typical footballer's attitude that lessons had been a pleasant, soporific break from the serious business of playing footy. It is not just Lineker's intellectual attainment that commands respect: it is his determination to adapt, to make Abroad work.

"There was no time to learn any Spanish before we went, it all happened so quick after the World Cup. But as soon as we got there, my wife and I started taking lessons, and we still do that now. Knowing



At home abroad: Spain is no pain for Lineker and his wife because when they decided to move there they did not put Leicester in their baggage

the language is vital, the most important thing of all. You don't want to spend all day sitting around a hotel not talking to anybody. You don't want to be unable to talk to your team-mates.

"To begin with, in the first few weeks, they're all very nice and patient, but you've got to make the effort to learn. They get bored with talking really slowly to you. These days, they don't slow down at all, we all speak together. But I mean, it's not as if you were doing them a favour by learning the language, is it?"

As for the football, it is up and down. Lineker is a hero one week, a duffer the next. One week he is full of gossip of his impending return to England, next week he has banged in a couple of goals and everyone in Barcelona loves him. He survived the passing of Terry Venables as manager, but his relationship with the present manager, Johann Cruyff, is not without its problems. There is nothing personal in this: Cruyff has rows with everyone; it is part of his method.

Lineker discovered in himself the

ability to cope with Abroad when things get difficult, as well as when everything is lovely. He has three years of his contract left "but in a place like Barcelona, that doesn't mean too much". His equanimity is his most enviable trait.

All the same, moving Abroad was not an easy decision. The offer came virtually in the week he got married. He and his wife Michelle talked it through, exhaustively and exhaustively. Every conversation was like one of Robinson Crusoe's credit-and-debit lists on the one hand we could do this, on the other hand we couldn't, do that. Neither would come clean and state a strong preference, so they held a secret ballot, each writing down the real desire. The result was two "yes" votes. So they went.

"It's a different lifestyle, and we both love it. Within a week, we were happy with it. The weather, the food - the wine! The different hours, we adapted to that at once. I love my sleep. It was just so easy to slot in. Of course, you miss some things. Friends and relations came out a lot in our first year, a lot less now. And

you miss stupid things like mint sauce and tea-bags - though I knew where to get tea-bags in Barcelona now. Getting a house was difficult, but a Spanish friend of Terry's helped us. Barcelona is a club that just leaves you to sort things out on your own.

"I like the way that people here know how to live. Three or four times a week, we go out to a restaurant with Spanish friends. They like to spend their money on living, not on houses. Spaniards like to sit down, get a good meal, and argue. You say something, they'll disagree - and that's a good evening. They're great talkers, and in Barcelona the first topic of conversation is always football.

"But it's difficult to look ahead. I just don't know what's going to happen. I could say I'm really looking forward to spending the next three years here - and next week be back in England."

Lineker has a gift for adaptation, and a rarer gift for contentment. He has never been booked in his life: this is the greatest tribute to his easy-going nature that could possibly be devised. It is this attribute

that made the process of adaptation a simple matter for him.

"It's the way you're made, probably. Though I didn't know it before, the life suits me. But I think that the point is you've got to want to make it work. You've got to want to like it, you've got to make yourself like it. If you go out with the attitude, well, let's get two years out of the way and make a few quid, and then I can get back - then you're never going to like it, you're never going to settle. You've got to make the effort to adapt culturally. And especially with the language."

Tomorrow: Football is as much a part of Spanish culture as it is of English. All over the world, football is a kind of Esperanto, a common language, a bond. But horse racing, and especially horse racing at Newmarket, is deeply and irretrievably English, and you could not imagine a foreigner fitting in there. Luca Cumani, deeply and irretrievably Italian, is a Newmarket man and trainer of this year's Derby winner. He chose the most alien place in the world in which to be excited.

YACHTING

Muir the peacock is turned into a feather duster

From Bob Ross, Sydney

A crack in a structural part of the deck that threatened to tear apart the hull 12 feet of the hull forced the line honours favourite, Windward Passage II, to retire from the AWA Sydney-Hobart race in the early hours of yesterday.

Windward Passage II, an 80ft-long maxi designed by German Frers and built of exotic plastic laminates instead of aluminium, which had been considered normal for yachts of this size, was one of 27 yachts of the 119 starters forced out of the race in the first 26 hours by damage, crew illness or injury caused by punishing seas raised by 25 to 30-knot, southerly headwinds against current running towards the south at up to three knots off the New South Wales coast.

She had covered 140 nautical miles in the first 12 hours and was leading the fleet, more than a mile in front of the nine-year-old Frers maxi, Ragamuffin, owned and skippered by Syd Fischer, when the crack developed and began to open.

Rod Muir, her skipper, said the problem was that in a very bad sea pattern, with steep 10ft-high waves on top of a 6.5ft swell, the yacht could not be slowed down sufficiently to stop her 36-tonne bulk falling out of the back of waves 15ft to 18ft in mid-air.

"It was exactly like driving a semi-trailer off a second-story building," he said.

The yacht was sailing under heavily reduced sail - tiny No. 5 headsail and double reefed mainsail - but still charging along at nine knots. After she fell sharply off two waves, the crack opened in the side-deck about 12ft from the stern and ran down into the side

of the cockpit. This forms part of a girder system supporting the whole back of the boat.

The cracking was caused, the crew believe, by the torsion loads on the hull as the yacht twisted through the waves. The decision was quickly made to retire when no repair options were open. "In our crew we have the people that built the boat and, on the best of advice that was there, we were only seconds from having the decision made for us," Muir said.

He retains complete faith in the yacht's high-technology construction and says she can easily be repaired and strengthened - with a bulkhead or ring frame - for the rest of the Australian season.

But to the man who got his start in commercial radio, which eventually built the fortune that allowed him to build his yacht on a country station in Tasmania, being first to finish in a Hobart race is a passion. "There was nothing we could do about it, and that's yacht racing," he said. "One day you are a peacock; next day you are a feather duster."

Windward Passage II's breakdown left Ragamuffin leading the race by a long way - nearly 40 miles ahead of the next yacht, the Farr 50 Great News (Dave Forbes and John Calverton-Jones) and also leading on corrected time estimations from the Farr 44 Madeline's Daughter (Peter Kurts) with Great News third and the little Victorian Threequarter Tonneur, Illusion (Gino Kneiz), fourth.

CONNECTED TIME LEADERS: 1. Ragamuffin (P. Kurts, NSW); 2. Madeline's Daughter (P. Kurts, NSW); 3. Great News (D. Forbes, NSW); 4. Illusion (G. Kneiz, Victoria); 5. Middle Harbour Express (P. Stone, Victoria); 6. Indian Pacific Vic (P. Loran, Victoria).

RESULTS: 1. N. Ved and V. Kozlov (India); 2. Camo and A. Ved (India); 3. Backwash and Manodue (Aust); 4. Brimble, S. Rowland and M. Rowland (Aust); 5. Lee and Lee (Aust); 6. Lee and Lee (Aust); 7. Lee and Lee (Aust); 8. Lee and Lee (Aust); 9. Lee and Lee (Aust); 10. Lee and Lee (Aust); 11. Lee and Lee (Aust); 12. Lee and Lee (Aust); 13. Lee and Lee (Aust); 14. Lee and Lee (Aust); 15. Lee and Lee (Aust); 16. Lee and Lee (Aust); 17. Lee and Lee (Aust); 18. Lee and Lee (Aust); 19. Lee and Lee (Aust); 20. Lee and Lee (Aust); 21. Lee and Lee (Aust); 22. Lee and Lee (Aust); 23. Lee and Lee (Aust); 24. Lee and Lee (Aust); 25. Lee and Lee (Aust); 26. Lee and Lee (Aust); 27. Lee and Lee (Aust); 28. Lee and Lee (Aust); 29. Lee and Lee (Aust); 30. Lee and Lee (Aust); 31. Lee and Lee (Aust); 32. Lee and Lee (Aust); 33. Lee and Lee (Aust); 34. Lee and Lee (Aust); 35. Lee and Lee (Aust); 36. Lee and Lee (Aust); 37. Lee and Lee (Aust); 38. Lee and Lee (Aust); 39. Lee and Lee (Aust); 40. 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Umpires duck issue as bouncers fly

From John Woodcock
Melbourne

The third Test match became a game of thuggery here yesterday as the West Indian fast bowlers, with the exception of Marshall, bombarded the Australian batsmen with salvo upon salvo of short-pitched balls. Yet the ugliness of it seemed entirely lost upon the umpires. Not once, that I saw, did they demur, as West Indies were gaining a first innings lead of 38. Between cool scuds of evening rain, West Indies, batting again, made 69 for one wicket.

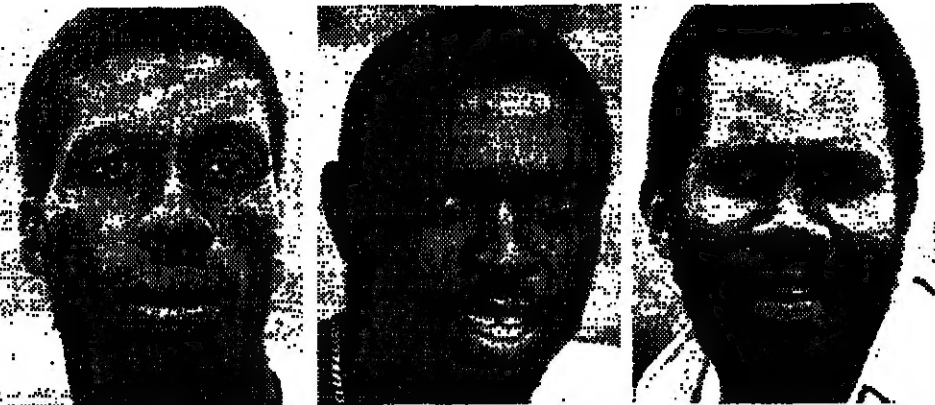
On such a day it was ironic that the worst casualty should have been Logie, who had his nose broken while fielding close to short leg. It is a position in which he has become an important accomplice to the fast bowlers, using his cat-like agility to pounce on anything fended off in the least uplissily. Knowing to expect something short from Ambrose, Hughes slammed it straight at Logie, whose visor, buckled under the impact.

The West Indians seemed to

become bleak and implacable after a couple of decisions had gone against them in the first hour. From then on they bowled indiscriminately short. The umpiring might just as well have been done by robots or a couple of traffic wardens, except that the latter like to enforce the law.

Richards's mood, the psychological pressure he put on the umpires, after first Waugh, then Wood had been given in, both to appeals for catches at the wicket, meant that the "corrector", awarded to level things up, was sure to come. When it did the victim was Healy, leg before to something that must have been passing well over the stumps.

It is no sort of a game played like this, as we have seen before — in Jamaica on England's last tour of the Caribbean, for example, and on an infamous occasion at Old Trafford in 1976, and sometimes when West Indies have not been bowled, when, yesterday, an Australian batsman was hit, there was not the slightest sign of concern or



Short of glory: (from left) Ambrose and Patterson bowled bouncers; Marshall was frustrated

regret from Richards and his side. I found it thoroughly unedifying and no one will ever produce the heavy equipment to pursue such tactics as relentlessly and effectively as the West Indians. Others try, but even when Thomson and Lillee were in their prime, Mallett would bowl 20 or 30 overs of off breaks in a match.

On one of the old-time Melbourne pitches, bowling as West Indies did yesterday was a waste of effort, even for West Indians. But much has been

done to quicken it up, and it is harder, with more bounce and grass, than anything seen here before. The Australians are known not to have been best pleased when they first sighted it, simply because it would encourage the West Indians to bowl as they did yesterday.

Just how thankless a business batting can be seen from what Wood, an attacking player by choice, had to show from 130 minutes at the crease. When he drove Patterson low to cover point — one of the few balls which Patter-

son pitched up — he had hit 12 singles and collected as many bounces.

Taylor ricked his back when ducking, which he spent much of the fifty minutes of his innings doing, and Waugh's fingers cannot have been a pretty sight by the time he slashed the second ball after lunch to second slip, where Greenidge caught him brilliantly. The batsmen spent very little time protecting their stumps; it was their ribs and above at which the bowlers aimed. There is sim-

ply no orthodox counter to it on a pitch such as this; it not only maims batsmen, it paralyses batsmanship.

Waugh's last four innings in the series have been 90, 91, 26 and 42. As Australia's best player at the moment, he managed two or three strokes off the back foot, past extra cover that had the stamp of greatness. Australia's biggest partnership yesterday was one of 44 between McDermott and Hughes for the ninth wicket. They had a slog and the best crowd (32,845) of the three days enjoyed it, and although the short bowling continued, McDermott's left hand was the only target to be hit.

Much the best of the day's proper bowling came from Alderman at the start of Australia's second innings. Pitching the new ball up and swinging it around, he had four good shots for leg before turned down. Marshall, than whom no one has inflicted more injury and pain in his time, had once again looked a shadow of himself. When he did have Waugh caught at short leg, it was off a no ball.

His best balls were missed, and if the batsmen skied him the ball fell just wide of the field. Marshall has been trying now for 222 balls for his 300th Test wicket. I doubt whether any of the 299 he has taken can have proved quite so elusive.

WEST INDIES First Innings 280 (T M Alderman 4 for 58)
Second Innings
C G Greenidge not out 26
D L Haynes bowled by Alderman 23
R B Richardson not out 17
Extras (nb 4) 4
Total (1 wk) 69

Australia First Innings
G R Marsh b Patterson 36
D M Jones b Ambrose 32
G M Wood c Hayden b Patterson 12
A R Border b Ambrose 12
S R Waugh c Greenidge b Ambrose 42
T A Taylor c Patterson b Ambrose 14
C J McDermott c Marshall b Patterson 39
M G Hughes not out 21
T M Alderman b Waugh 3
Extras (b 2, lb 16) 19
Total 242

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40 (2-103, 3-117, 4-117, 5-155, 6-161, 7-168, 8-180, 9-234).
BOWLING: Marshall 30-6-64 (4 nb); Ambrose 27-8-54 (5 nb); Waugh 17-3-49 (2 nb); Patterson 20-3-44 (4 nb).
Umpires: A R Crafter and P J McDermott.

END COLUMN

He leads and the world follows

By Gerald Davies

The celebrations, seasonal or otherwise, can last a while longer, if you please, before the year makes its final bow. Today David Campese is back, wearing the Barbarian jersey up Leicester way.

From this observer's distance, at least, some players do stand apart from others, cast their spell and tickle a cry of wonder. Coaches may not readily like to admit to this, all fellows treated equally, they say, believe, serves their instructional and motivational purposes better — but it is as well they should observe the gifted man — recognize him and set him apart.

It is, perhaps, our good fortune that it was Bob Dwyer, who coached the recent Australian rugby team. Otherwise we might have missed Campese at his very best. Campese is not only a master winger, knowing his corridor patch along the touchline; he also possesses the footballing cleverness which allows him to go boldly where few wingers have gone before. The whole field is his domain; no parallel lines can confine him.

He and John Kirwan reign supreme in their left and right positions. If Campese saves the game because of his flourish and adventure, Kirwan reveals a scrupulous talent which is strictly academic and powerfully efficient: Campese's Cavalier to Kirwan's Roundhead.

It was the All Black who won the encounter in this last summer's series. But the Wallabies were in better shape when they reached here, which



Campese: smiling Cavalier was to Campese's benefit. Yet, if New Zealand might be said to be diminished by Kirwan's absence, if the occasion arose, the team's potency, you always feel, would yet survive. The removal of Campese, however, would dismember Australia.

It is rare for a winger to have such influence, as Campese does, on a game of rugby. He transcends the limits which are usually imposed on the position, although I find, dare I ever quibble, that high-knee goose step of his uncharacteristically unsightly.

He does not allow the whims of others, though, to enslave him. He is renowned not to have got on with Alan Jones, the previous Australian coach, and so in order to perform as he did on the all-too-brief tour here he must have found a kindred spirit in Dwyer.

There can be no greater compliment paid to Campese than to say he is an original. None the less, at Cardiff against the Barbarians there was, born of local ambition for local boys, a certain parochial wish for his downfall.

When, having covered 50 metres or so of the ground, the ball, precariously grasped in his palm, squeezed out embarrassingly, a scoring chance was frittered. This was met with a bellow of derision and the scoffing laughter of the mob.

He greeted it, marvellously, with his own rueful smile. Schoolboys present at that exemplary instant should ponder long and hard on his behaviour; teachers even more so. In that moment of weakness, exposed as he was in the way only a sportsman can be on a vast expanse of grass, no tantrum betrayed him. Campese remained in good grace under pressure and admirably and humorously in command.

After that maturing moment, you felt — you hoped — that his moment would come. And come it did. As Barry John once flouted his gifts in one tantalizing moment at the Arms Park in his final rugby match, so Campese managed to score, in what is likely to be his last match in the Australian colours in Wales, a try which defined his special art. He moves this way and that, as we know. But his greatest hallmark is the impression of good time he manages to create for himself to weave his delightful deceptions.

At this crowning moment the crowd hailed the conquering hero and gave him the accolade of a standing ovation. For, as he sauntered behind the posts, they saw in him what they had seen all along but were too reluctant to admit: the rugby player they themselves would wish to be.

Gordon brings Norwich relief

By Gerry Harrison

Norwich City 2
West Ham United 1

With a sigh of relief, Norwich City yesterday clambered back to the top of the first division and, almost apologetically, trotted West Ham United further into the division's sub-soil. Their anxiety was not so much the result of appearing live on television, but of playing at Carrow Road.

Although Norwich had led the table since October 8, until Arsenal removed them briefly on Boxing Day, they have shown their championship potential only intermittently during their last four games. When they leapt into a two-goal lead after 61 minutes, with Crook and Townsend

First division leaders

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich	18	10	4	4	37	20	34
Arsenal	17	10	4	3	37	20	34
Liverpool	17	7	7	3	22	18	28
Sheff Wed	17	7	7	3	21	21	28
Sheff Utd	17	7	6	4	22	16	27
Coventry	18	7	6	5	21	17	27

controlling the midfield and inspiring their best football, it looked as if the negative spell had been broken.

Yet even against the bottom club, the team with a defensive record in the League of six wins in 12 months, Norwich came dangerously close to spoiling their day.

When Phelan was spotted pushing Kelly in the penalty area and Stewart successfully took the penalty, West Ham found a lifeline and played their best football. Yet despite the promptings of Brady, some dangerous moments from Rosier and a brilliant run and shot by Ince, West Ham could not conjure the goal which would have given them a point they deserved for good behaviour and nice ideas.

If West Ham played as if they still expect a happy ending, there was much more conviction in the Norwich game, especially in a first half which was pleasing, even elegant at times. Gordon tested

McKnight, the West Ham goalkeeper, in the early moments before he blocked Rosario's close range deflection of Punney's header. West Ham threatened only once when first Dale and then Dickens had shots charged down by squads of Norwich defenders.

Yet the foundation of Norwich's good run so far is patience and passing and they have been taught to keep plugging away and await their awards. It was not long into the second half before their play, at a higher tempo now, brought recompense.

West Ham had been forced to leave Martin in the dressing-room at half-time because of influenza and Rosario was especially pleased as the opposing captain had made his life difficult. The introduction of Stewart, playing only his fourth game of the season, also heartened Norwich.

The door opened when Rosario sent Gordon down the right and McKnight chose to dash out and attempt a full back's interception. He failed and Gordon did well to squeeze his shot in from an oblique angle.

Eight minutes later Norwich went further ahead when Gunn's long kick went from Rosario to Fleck and Townsend, roaring through from midfield prodded the ball under McKnight. Again the goalkeeper looked as if he should have smothered the chance.

For the next 10 minutes Norwich played exhibition football until a cross from the right was headed on by Rosier and Phelan was penalised for pushing Kelly. Stewart comfortably scored his third goal despite his limited appearances and the scene was set for a courageous spell from West Ham and a handful of anxious moments for Norwich.

NORWICH CITY: B Gunn; I Culverhouse, M Bowen, I Crook, A Linsden, A Townsend (sub); B. Williams, D Gordon, R Fleck, R Rosier, M Phelan, T Punney.
WEST HAM: A McKnight, S Potts, G Morris, A Goss, A Martin (sub), S Stewart, A Devonshire, L Brady, D Kelly, L Rosier, A Dickens (sub; K Knight), P Ince, R Bennett, M Bailey (Cambridge).



Moving up: Phelan, the Norwich captain, clears as Devonshire is crowded out by Townsend

Caution greets best attendance for five years

By Dennis Signy

Despite the continuing increase in interest in football this season, with the total attendance on Boxing Day exceeding half a million, the highest for five years, leading football administrators yesterday tinged their optimism with cautionary notes.

With a compulsory membership card scheme on the horizon, football is worried that the "floating" supporters who help swell the figures at holiday times could be lost, at considerable cost to the game.

Clubs are counting the revenue from all-comers being allowed through their turnstiles. Despite varying problems in recent seasons, attendances have shown an increase for four years.

The trend is continuing. In the pre-Christmas period this

and chief executive of Watford, said: "This is excellent news and bears out what football people are saying. It is a continuing line of improvement that is becoming a comforting upsurge."

Plumley said that family groups and friends and members of families on visits were among those who helped to increase the holiday figures; many of these would be unable to attend if a compulsory membership scheme was introduced.

"If it comes, this is one of the problems," Plumley said. "It is one of the horrifying jobs someone has to sort out."

FLESA has asked the Government for a two-year respite to try to overcome difficulties that would be created by too quick an implementation of a membership scheme. "Don't let us drive people away when they are coming back to football," Plumley said.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, expressed delight that the figures were increasing for the third successive season. "People get the impression the game is one crisis after another," he said.

He praised the introduction of the play-off games and said that interest in this season was increased by Liverpool not having a monopoly in the first division: "Everybody's going to have a bite at the cherry."

There was also a resurgence of interest in big clubs in lower divisions, with Leeds United, Manchester City, Wolverhampton Wanderers and Swansea City having success.

"The increases in attendances are despite the measures to combat hooliganism, or maybe because of them," Taylor said. He added that it was only the fourth time since the war that an increase in attendances had come in successive seasons.

"That is so ironic when the game faces its biggest crisis yet," he said. "If the Government gets its way we may never again see attendances like on Boxing Day."

ATTENDANCES UP TO DECEMBER 27

	1988/89	1987/88	1986/87	1985/86
First division	3,694,204	3,767,870	3,960,319	3,893,790
Second division	2,576,428	2,477,881	2,125,398	1,738,795
Third division	1,236,550	1,118,012	940,916	1,044,814
Fourth division	718,484	705,788	782,193	606,834
TOTALS	8,229,666	8,064,851	7,808,736	7,244,714

In all divisions, the figure for each year is based on the same number of matches played

BOXING DAY ATTENDANCES

	1988/89	1987/88	1986/87	1985/86
First division	226,798 (10)	192,839 (10)	243,345 (11)	198,499 (9)
Second division	178,198 (12)	168,196 (11)	121,187 (11)	111,399 (10)
Third division	83,512 (12)	76,824 (10)	76,765 (12)	56,917 (10)
Fourth division	61,590 (12)	38,135 (11)	57,464 (12)	43,600 (10)
TOTALS	552,408 (45)	465,994 (44)	498,761 (46)	410,415 (37)

Figures in brackets are number of matches played

Incentive to regain the lead

By Gerry Harrison

Dave Stringer, the Norwich manager, said "I think the occasion lifted the players — not so much the live television, but rather the crowd and the fact that we had been knocked off the top of the table the day before. We kept plugging away and I feel we showed the public that we can play a bit of football."

"As George Graham said yesterday, you don't win anything by being top at Christmas. All we can do is keep going and enjoy ourselves."

Michael Phelan, the Norwich captain, said: "I can't grumble too much about the penalty, but after that the game seemed to turn against

us. I suppose it increased the entertainment value, but it didn't do much for us. I thought we coped with it quite well, but I think we were happy to hear the final whistle. Things haven't gone as well as we hoped at home recently."

"It's always a pleasure to play against West Ham, who play the same way as we do. They are a positive side without getting the breaks some of their play deserved. It's hard to explain why we should be at the top and they should be at the bottom. I can't put my finger on that except to say that if they keep playing the way they played against us,

and keep believing it's right, then they will get out of trouble."

Another Norwich player, Ian Crook, an avid West Ham supporter in his youth, was impressed by their play: "I followed West Ham home and away in the Seventies when I could, particularly in the 1975 Cup run and in the European matches, and it's always great for me to be in the side against them. Honestly, I thought they were a good side and hard to play against. But we let ourselves down in the last 20 minutes. We never seem to get hold of the ball and keep it and we very nearly came unstuck."

Allen, a cousin of both Clive Allen, of Bordeaux, and the Tottenham Hotspur player, Paul Allen, has told Trevor Francis, the new QPR player-

United interested as Allen seeks transfer

Martin Allen, the Queen's Park Rangers midfielder player who has been placed on a transfer list as his own request because he wants to play for "one of the top six big clubs", has attracted an enquiry from Manchester United (Dennis Signy writes). The asking price in excess of £500,000 will probably end United's interest: their valuation of the former England under-21 player is less than half that.

Allen, a cousin of both Clive Allen, of Bordeaux, and the Tottenham Hotspur player, Paul Allen, has told Trevor Francis, the new QPR player-

manager, he wants "a change of scenery" after a decade at Loftus Road. He has objected to being played at right back in recent games.

Alan McDonald, the Northern Ireland centre half, David Kerslake and Gavin Maguire are also on the transfer list; they all asked to go before Francis succeeded Jim Smith.

Francis plans further talks with David Seaman, the England squad goalkeeper. Seaman has been offered a new contract by Richard Thompson, the QPR chairman, and will give his decision this week.

Test player is accused of homicide

Chandigarh (Reuters) — The Indian Test player, Navjot Singh Sidhu, was charged with homicide yesterday after a man died during an altercation over a minor traffic accident.

Police said that Sidhu and a companion are accused of beating the driver of a vehicle which ran into the back of their car in the town of Patalia, in north India's Punjab state. The driver died on the way to hospital.

They said Sidhu, charged with "culpable homicide short of murder", was not in custody and appeared to have fled. Sidhu made his Test debut against West Indies in 1983.

Pipe one short of fastest 100

By Michael Seely, Racing Correspondent

Martin Pipe, the season's leading trainer, continued his remarkable run of success with a five-timer yesterday, spearheaded by Bonanza Boy in the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow.

Peter Scudamore rode all of Pipe's four winners at the Gwent course while Jonathan Lower partnered Pertemps Network to victory at Wolverhampton to put the Somerset trainer on the 99 mark for the season.

Pipe has no runners today but several possibilities at his local track, Taunton, tomorrow.

The previous fastest hundred by a trainer was recorded by Michael Dickinson on March 8, 1983, so Pipe is on

course to beat that record by more than two months.

Pipe, Dickinson and Arthur Stephenson remain the only men to have trained 100 winners in a season.

Scudamore, with 109 winners already to his credit, is now in with a sporting chance of becoming the first National Hunt jockey to ride 200 winners in a season.

Bonanza Boy landed a gamble from 7-2 to 9-4 favourite in beating Run And Skip, the 1985 winner, by 12 lengths. The Thinker, attempting to concede 22lb to the winner, ran a fine race to finish third.

"This has been Bonanza Boy's target all season," Pipe said. "I told everyone that if there was such a thing as a

certainty in a race as tough as the Welsh National, this was it. It's all down to the horse and the brilliant Peter Scudamore. He spent hours schooling him to restore his confidence."

At Kempton Park, Kribensis consolidated his position as Champion Hurdle favourite and maintained his unbeaten record with a fluent victory in the Top Rank Christmas Hurdle.

Hills clipped the winner from 11-4 to 5-2 for the big race at Cheltenham. Michael Stoute will now give Kribensis a brief rest before running Sheikh Mohammed's grey in one of the Champion Hurdle trials.

More racing, pages 26-27

Klinsmann on move

Stuttgart (AP) — The West German player, Juergen Klinsmann will join Inter Milan next summer, the weekly magazine Sport Bild said yesterday.

Klinsmann, aged 24, will receive an annual salary of £260,000 and Inter will pay £1.25 million his present club, VfB Stuttgart, according to the magazine.

Eagle's flight

Sheffield Eagles have transferred Mark Fleming, just 12 months after paying a club record fee, £5,000, for the loose forward from Bradford Northern.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Silvas: top athlete

Sports death

Ronald O'Connor, the sports editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, was killed in a car crash on the A286 at Milford, Surrey, on Boxing Day night on his way home from his office on the Isle of Dogs, east London.

High ranking

Vienna (AP) — The gymnast, Daniela Silivas, who won three gold medals in women's gymnastics at the Olympics, was chosen by Romanian journalists the athlete of the year, it was reported yesterday.

Under arrest

Belgrade (AP) — Zelko Obradovic, a member of Yugoslavia's national basketball team, which won the silver medal at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, has been arrested for draft evasion, it was reported yesterday.

At this crowning moment the crowd hailed the conquering hero and gave him the accolade of a standing ovation. For, as he sauntered behind the posts, they saw in him what they had seen all along but were too reluctant to admit: the rugby player they themselves would wish to be.